LATROBE VALLEY
FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR 1978

Feb.	24th	Dr. Elizabeth Turner speaking on "In the Steps of Darwin". A talk on her trip to the Galapagos Islands.
	25th	An excursion to Phillip Island for waders.
Mar.	31st	Annual meeting. Mini Photo Flora.
Apr.	1st	An insect excursion to the Mt. Useful area under the leadership of Mr. Moretti.
	28th	Mrs. Brewster speaking on her trip to King Is.
	29th	An excursion to the Sth. Gipps. area under the leadership of Mrs. Brewster.
May	26th	Speaker on Mammals. Spotlighting excursion.
June	23rd	Mrs. Lyndon ..... Key to Fungi.
	24th	Fungi excursion under the leadership of Mrs. Lyndon.
July	28th	L.C.C. Prof. Turner.
	29th	Excursion to be planned.
Aug.	25th	Mr. W. Cane .... propagating native plants.
	26th	Excursion to the Maffra area.
Sept.	22nd	Mr. Bart. Sterkenburg .... W.A. Trip.
	23rd	Excursion to the Gormandale area for orchids.
SPECIAL EVENING		
Oct.	6th	Mr. B. Emmison to speak on POLAR BIRDS.
	27th	Mr. Richard Loyn - "Migrating Birds".
	28th	Bird excursion.
Nov.	24th	Mr. Evan Chesterfield - "A study of the Macalister Watershed".
	25th	An excursion to be planned.
Dec.	9th	Christmas Breakup at the property of Mrs. & Mrs. Ringin, Coalville.

January long weekend camp out 1979 .... Lankey Plain

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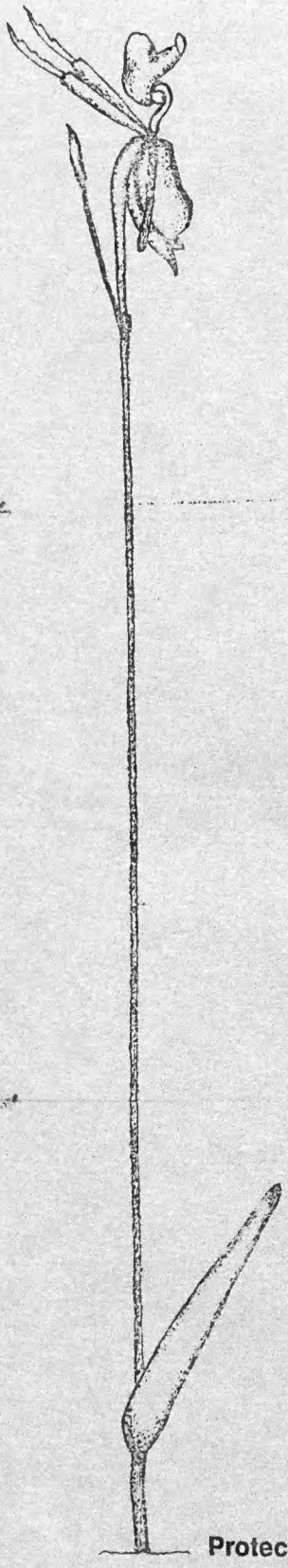
NATURALISTS CLUB

JANUARY, 1978

ISSUE No. 169



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

Warragul F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday January 20th
Mr Dick Briggs
"New Zealand part 1."

Excursion: Sunday January 22nd
Contact Secretary for details.

Latrobe Valley F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday January 20th
Mr K.Bryant "Astrology"

Excursion: Weekend Campout to Holmes Plain as described in December Naturalist.

Traralgon F.N.C.

No details known .

A NOTE FROM LEONGATHA

During the third week in November we had the pleasure of a visit by Dr and Mrs Maas Geesteranus of Leiden in the Netherlands, who spent a few days with us. Some previous correspondence had passed between us on the subject of fungi, particularly concerning the Hydnaceae. The Doctor is an authority on what we call the "toothed fungi". Both he and his wife are interested in many other aspects of natural history and had enjoyed an action-packed month in Australia, spending a few days in Sydney, then in Tasmania and the rest with their married daughter in Melbourne.

We took them to the beaches to see rocks, and finished up at the home of those ardent "rockhounds" the Brewsters. (No need to go further.) Another day was spent at Tarra Valley, with a short detour to buy fresh fish and see the old tree at Port Albert. The Beech trees interested them, for Nothofagus occurs only in the Australasian region and in South America. In BUlga Park we found the paths fairly littered with th parasitic "Beech Oranges" that had fallen from high in the old trees. Other fungi was rare indeed, so this was an unexpected bonus for us all. The gullies are dangerously dry. I cant recall ever seeing the mosses and lichens so dessicated at this time of the year. The damage caused by the heavy snow in early June is unbelievable, the gullies being cluttered with smashed limbs and bowed saplings. The treeferns are only now sending forth new crowns of fronds.

At home in Holland the Doctor and his wife depend on their stout walking boots or their bicycles and we suspect they found long car journeys rather tiring. They were excellent company in the field and full of enthusiasm, with many commisions to collect this and that for colleagues at the Herbarium. The beetles and butterflies in the park and the garden were forced to flee for their lives, early and late. It was with real regret that we put them on the train for their trip back to town.

Ellen Lyndon.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all subscribers to the Naturalist.

The programme will be available at next meeting (hopefully) or else during the campout weekend.

The index will be printed in the February Naturalist.

A further appeal for articles to help make the Naturalist YOUR Paper. Just a few lines with some nature observations or some experiences over the holidays. We hope for some response.

EXCURSION TO MT ST GWINEAR 26/11/77

The morning of 26th November was bright and clear with a temperature steadily advancing towards a predicted high of 35 as some 20 field naturalists of the Latrobe Valley assembled at Parkers Corner, outside of Erica. The days destination was to be Mt St Gwinear, in the high country to the west of the Thomson Valley , and after an exchange of greetings and conversation the party moved along the Thomson Valley Road from farmland into the forests.

The first halt called by our guide, Dick Reid, was at the turnoff leading to the Old Steel Bridge in the valley below, and we proceeded along the track between a variety of Eucalypt species including impressive specimens of Mountain Grey Gum (E.cypellocarpa). Other species seen were Silvertop,(E.sieberi); and here we noted the distinctive grey bloom on the bark of younger specimens; Scentbark (E.aromaphloia)with aromatic bark and vertically hanging narrow leaves and the narrow leaved Peppermint (E.robertsonii). Stringybark species were represented by Brown Stringybark (E.baxteri), and Messmate (E.obliqua). Many splashes of colour were provided by the Hop Goodenia G.ovata, and particularly attractive were a number of specimens of Tall Sun Orchid (Thelymitra media) in the disturbed earth by the side of the track, one specimen with clear blue flowers reaching perhaps 50 cm in height.
Other species seen here included Clematis, Rice Flower and Love Creeperwith seed pods.

The party then travelled further north along the thomson Valley Road, now widened beyond recognition in its southern section to provide access to the Thomson Dam Site. We paused to examine a magnificent stand of Mountain Ash(E.regnans). The tall straight trees were up to 50 m in height along both sides of the road and were considered by Mr Reid to be regeneration from the 1939 bush fires.
A variety of species were seen in the understory including Silver Wattle (Acacia dealbata), Rough Treefern(Cyathea australis), Pomaderis and Wonga Vine.

Our next wayside stop was north of the turnoff to the damsite on the original narrow road, and here were more specimens of Mountain Grey Gum with characteristic horizontal trunk markings while Musk Daisy-bush was seen in the understory and the call of the Whipbird could be heard in the distance.

A further halt was made at Bullers Point to view the expanding construction site for the dam below in the valley, and proceeding northwards a turn was made up the St Gwinear Road to a stand of Shining Gum (E.nitens) where our guide pointed out the small shining fruit capsules from which the species derives its name. This point on the road was also our lunch stop and having satisfied hunger and thirst members dispersed amongst the trees looking for birds abd plant specimens. A number of white orchids Caladenia lyallii were found growing along the roadside and Mountain Correa and Mintbush discovered under the trees.

contd pp3

EXCURSION TO MT ST GWINEAR contd...

We then moved further up the mountain to the car park situated at the termination of the completed section of road, and located within the Baw Baw Alpine Reserve.

A fine view was enjoyed from this point across the valley to rocky outcrops on the mountainside opposite and to the Latrobe Valley far to the South. The sun shone brightly in the sky despite developing cumulus cloud and identifications were made of the predominant species of trees. The Snow Gum (E.pauciflora)or White Salee and the similar Tingi Ringi Gum, (E.glaucescens) with blue coloured juvenile leaves.

A walk up the uncompleted road towards the summit brought to view many species of plants by the track, and along the edges of the numerous small springs and pools of clear water from which members refreshed themselves. Identified were the Baw Baw Berry of restricted Gippsland range, the Mountain Pepper, a variety of Eyebright, pouched Coral Fern, Alpine Waterfern and numerous specimens of yellow Ranunculus or buttercup. Our birdwatchers noted thrush songs and the call of Olive whistlers in the trees and animal life was represented by a number of small lizards sunning on rocks, with the prescence of a wombat indicated by a large burrow to the side of the track.

Towards the summit are large open areas scattered with rocks and finally a point was reached with a sweeping view eastwards to distant mountains and the smoke of a bushfire in the Mt Margaret area. Pultenia muelleri, a dwarf bush-pea , and Mintbush, Prostanthera aeuniata were found at this point before a return to the car park and refreshments, noting on the way a flame robins nest with young set in rocks close to the car park.

At the car park a number of swifts and a Gang Gang Cockatoo were seen flying overhead and finally Mr Lubcke thanked Mr Reid for his leadership of the excursion and assistance with eucalypt identification. Members then made their way home after a very enjoyable day.

K.Bryant.

TRAIN TRIP

One cold day during the Christmas New Year holidays 1976-77 we decided to take some of our visitors for a return trip on our small local railway line from Wonthaggi to Nyora. we had thought to show themthe varied scenery along the line; ti-tree swamps and sand dune country along the coast between Wonthaggi, Dalyston and Kilcunda with grazing land to the north; around Kilcunda the fine coastal scenery- the long sweep of sand dunes behind the beach back to Cape Patterson in the east, with cliffy headlands of Jurassic sandstone at Kilcunda and across to the pink granite cliffs of cape Woolami on Phillip Island; old coal mines and farmland between Kilcunda and Anderson; then the downhill run along the Woolami fault line with views over westernport Bay to Phillip Island and French Island.

contd...pp4

TRAIN TRIP contd..

across the rich farmland of the Bass River flats; along the flats past Almurta, Glen Forbes, Kernot and Woodleigh and across the Bass River before the pull up through light forest and heathland to Nyora. But as well as these interesting views of the countryside through which the line passes we were able to recognise much of interest in the plants and animals.

Sparrows in Wonthaggi station yard and on the platform, unidentified birds above the old mullock heaps at the Old State Coalmine swallows swooping over the Wonthaggi sewerage ponds, and Nankeen Kestrels hawking over the open country. Inside the railway reserve and along the fence lines across the Powlett River flats were stands of Swamp Paper-bark (Melaleuca ericifolia), Dogwood (Cassinia longifolia), with reeds along the drains and around the swamps and Magpies in the paddocks recently cut for hay. By Dalyston station Common Centaury (Centaurium minus) , Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare) and rushes were among the grass tussocks. Many of the sand dunes behind the beach towards Kilcunda have been planted with Marram Grass (Ammophila arenaria) to try to stop erosion, but there were great bare patches constantly blowing away before the winds and hikers' feet. Salt tolerant plants and other dwarfed and wind distorted shrubs where the sea spray sometimes reaches the line near Kilcunda are all short of growth habits which makes the area look very bleak even on fine days. Among the old mullock heaps and their attendant blackberry bushes beyond the Kilcunda railway bridge were some small circular haystacks - a rarity in this part of Gippsland.

At Anderson station the train was three minutes ahead of schedule and the local flies put that extra waiting time to good use annoying the passengers. Bracken along the line here, with Crows, Indian Mynas, and Kestrels over the paddocks.
At Glenforbes there were deep valleys and steep banks in the streams --all tributaries of the Bass River. Dairying and beef herds were in the paddocks each side of the line and hay making was still in progress on many of the farms. Most of these stations are just stopping places on the line these days with no attendant staff.
At each of these the guard delivered the morning papers for the locals. These papers had earlier travelled by road from Melbourne to Wonthaggi on the Bass Highway and were now being delivered by a train travelling towards Melbourne. Beyond Almurta Ibis, Magpies and Ducks were busy in the hay paddocks with some Swordgrass (Gahnia radula) and Grass Tree (Xanthorrhoea australis) in bushy spots where there were Goldfinches and Prickly Moses (Acacia verticillata), Dogwood and Rabbits. Once in the bush beyond the crossings of the South Gippsland Highway and the Bass River Peppermints (Euc.radiata) and Sweet Wattle (Acacia suaveolens) had Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea) growing well beneath them. Finally Silky Tea-tree (Leptospermum myrsinoides) and more Prickly Moses before we reached Nyora station.

contd...pp5

TRAIN TRIP

contd...

In the great bulky nest under the roof of the station building sparrows were busy feeding young, and in the waiting room spiders had a great catch of insects in their webs. We had one and a half hours to wait for the return train so that gave us time for a walk around Nyora and further afield. Along the pleasant rural road which led out to the cemetery we found Wild Cherries (Exocarpus cupressiformis) for our city visitors to sample.
As Nyora meant "wild cherry" to the Aboriginal people this pleased us all. There were plenty of Hop Goodenia (Goodenia ovata), Centaury, Trigger Plants (Stylidium graminifolium), a novelty for the city children, Daisy Bush (Oleria lirata), a Hakea, Wild Flax (Linum marginale), Drooping She-oak (Casuarina stricta), Scented Paper-bark (Melaleuca squarrosa) and Sweet Pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum). At the cemetery were masses of small Onion Orchids and Trigger plants, a flock of Ibis, a beehive in a grave and Wiry Bauera (Bauera rubioides).

E.Brewster.

IS THE GREENFINCH COMMON HERE ?

Has anyone else noticed a build up in numbers of the European Greenfinch this spring ? In previous seasons it has been rather a rarity around Leongatha.

A stocky thick-billed finch with a short forked tail, it is somewhat larger than its commoner relative, the Goldfinch. During the breeding season the male perches on the topmost twig of a tree and monotonously repeats its "zee-eep " call, which I find rather irritating, although I suspect it has some sweeter canary-like notes, But it is the squeegee sound that instantly betrays its prescence in an area. Against the sky the bird appears to be a uniform olive-green, but closer scrutiny shows some yellow and brown in the plumage.

The Greenfinch is spreading round the south-eastern coastal areas of Australia, and seems to have a preference for cities and towns.

E.Lyndon.

A FIELD NATS' EXCURSION ON KING ISLAND.

In its small area of approximately 70 by 24 kms. King Island has a great variety of terrain. From the sea it looks like a mass of low rolling sand dunes with rocky and treacherous headlands and cliffs; from the air in fine weather it appears as almost a basin of green pastures and scrubland within encircling sand dunes; in wet weather it sometimes looks like a great swamp with occasional green islands of the dunes and higher hills. Mt Stanley, the highest point on the island is only 213 metres above sea level and very hard to isolate from the rolling contours of the slight rises around it. Mt Counsellor in the North East of the island is far more spectacular as it rises as an even "sand castle" of 70 metres above the surrounding flat scrub area.

Apart from cleared pasture land for beef, sheep; or dairying, much of the island is still uncleared "ti-tree" swamp -- Melaleuca ericifolia , Swamp Paper bark and Melaleuca squarrosa, Scented Paper-bark. Some of these dense thickets are of trees 15 - 18 m. tall. along many fence lines are secondary growth of these trees as they ring many of the great number of lagoons scattered over the entire island. As well there are extensive heathlands-- lovely for wildflowers in season. there are several short rivers and streams on the West Coast -- the Ettrick river, Porky Creek, Pass River and the stream at Yellow Rock all flow mainly through farm landand sand dunes. On the East coast is Sea Elephant River, the island's longest stream, which drains much of the central area and some of thenorthern dairying farms. Fraser River and Seal River also flow to theEast as do several other small streams.

It was to one of these creeks that the July excursion ofthe King Island Field Naturalists' Club was held on a day which started fine and sunny but ended overcast and drizzling rain. Our cars were leftat the road and the excursion started bytractor and trailer as twentyseven persons ranging from four to over sixties were taken about1.6 km through paddocks (some pasture some bush) to the beach where we lunched in a pleasant little cove. Then the climb began, gently at firstacross open paddocks where wallabies and sheepwere disturbed, next across sandy heathland and into ti-tree thicket before we reached the gullyfloor and fairly continuous scrambling.

Among the Coastal Tea-tree (Leptospermum laevigatum) edging some of the lower paddocks were many plants of Pink Fairy Orchids (Caladenia latifolia) and also leaves of a Sun Orchid. Here too, was plenty of Prickly Moses (Acacia verticillata) with an unusual broad -leafed form also growing there. Echidna diggings were found in the sandy soil. Among the heathland were clumps of Sword Grass and a small Olearia flowering. We had to force our way through a thicket of Manuka (Leptospermum scoparium) and Swamp Paper-bark with fungi here and there a creamy Amanita, an orange Club Fungus (Clavaria sp.) a mauve "toadstool" and earth Stars(Geaster sp.)

continued in February Naturalist

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday eachmonth, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer — Mr C.Lester, 61 Strzelecki Rd. YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 — Family $4.50 — Single Member $4.00

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

is the official publication of the Latrobe Field Naturalist Club. Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon.Editor, Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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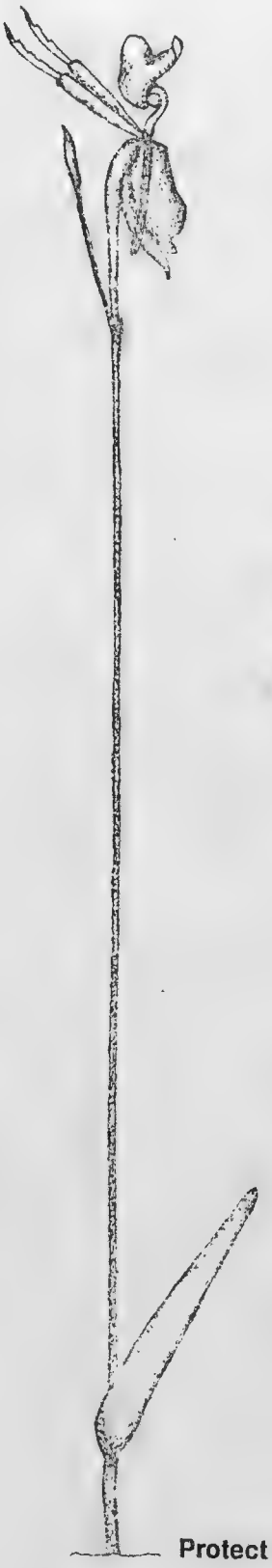

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday 17th February
Mr Alan Petschak "The Uranium Story"

EXCURSION: Sunday 19th February
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday 24th February
Dr Elizabeth Turner
"In the steps of Darwin"

A talk on her trip to the Galapagos Islands.
This is to be a special meeting with special supper provided by the ladies bringing a plate of goodies.

EXCURSION: Saturday 25th February
Phillip Island "Waders"

MEETING PLACE San Remo bridge at 9.30 am

The early meeting time is to fit in with the tide times as there is a fair walk to the spit where we will see the birds at low tide.

PHOTOFLORA

MARCH 18th St Mary's Hall SALE
Sponsored by Gippsland Native Plant Society.

TRARALGON F.N.C. No details known

KING ISLAND contd...

There were leaves of Greenhood (Pterostylis sp.) and flowers on Gnat Orchids (Acianthus exertus)with many small Clematis seedlings.

The gully floor was comparatively open as we climbed though the sides were often steep where climbing and balancing (and over balancing) all added to the adventure of the day. Near a rock bar and steep strenuous climbing was a small waterfall of 1.8 metres and flowers of Veined Helmet Orchid (Corybas dilatatus)and of Tall Greenhood)Pterostylis longifolia). In the small pockets of earth on the rock ledges as we climbed were leaves of a Calochilus sp.. Still rock climbing we came to another fall of 3.6 metres with Tree ferns and thickets of Fan-fern edging the creek above the fall. On one flat part of the gully floor several Tree-ferns had fallen and there were four horizontal trunks with three joined to one forming a large E with upright Tree-ferns growing at the tips. There was Prickly Currant-bush(Coprosma quadrifida) in this part with other fungi, small blue Mycena, mauve Puff-balls, and giant specimens of Vegetable Caterpillars (Cordyceps gunnii) Some Pomaderris trees sheltered one side of the gully and on the opposite steep bank were a Spleenwort and a Liverwort.There were some huge Blue Gums (Euc. globulus) on the sloping gully sides and more fungus-- a gilled Bracket fungus and some Russula emetica. Yabbie holes were found beside the water.

Three Ring-tailed Possums were disturbed from where they had been resting in the crown of a Tree-fern and scampered out onto limbs of a Hazel (Pomaderris apetala). Further up the gully a Brush tailed Possum was using a hole high in the creek bank as ita home. Honeyfungus - a lemon coloured variety of Armillaria - and Satin-wood (Phebaleum squameum) were along the creek as we rounded a corner and heard the sound of rushing water.

We scrambled up a crumbling bank and through a thick growth of Paper-bark trunks we could see a waterfall dropping 9 metres down a rocky cleft in a rock bar across the gully. The property through this creek runs had recently changed hands and the new owner had not known he had acquired a waterfall until one day he was at the edge of one of his cleared paddocks where he thought the Ti-tree edge adjoined another cleared paddock, until he heard the rushing sound and pushed his way through the tree trunks and found the waterfall. After admiring the scene from this point the extremely young and the exhausted were able to head back to the cars across cleared paddocks.

For those who pressed on up the gully were further surprises (for the owner too) as there was a side gully with giant Banksia trees 18 metres high. Some had been damaged and fallen in a recent windstorm. Beneath the Banksias more ti-tree thicket and some tall Pimelea drupacea. Higher still were more ferns-- Necklace fern (Asplenium flabillifolium) more common Spleenwort (Asplemium trichomanes) Common groundfern (Culcita dubia)....

contd.....

KING ISLAND contd...

Bat's wing Fern (Histiopteris incisa) and Shiny Shield-fern (Lastreopsis shepherdii). Smooth Nettle (Australina muelleri) grew beside some creamy-grey oozy patches of soil. After we had left the grey heathland sand the soil through which we'd scrambled had been rich dark brown but here there were those oozy patches. these were so soft that both man and beast sink into them They are caused by iron seepage and when disturbed they ooze rusty coloured water.

By this time the drizzle of rain was thickening so an interesting five hour excursion ended as we hurried through cleared paddocks back to our cars and home to warm fires and food.

E.P.Brewster

The article in January Naturalist by Mrs Brewster prompted Mr Eve to write to send a copy of a poem he had found . The poem dates from the railway age - by EDWARD THOMAS 1878 -1917.

ADLESTROP

YES. I REMEMBER ADLESTROP
THE NAME, BECAUSE ONE AFTERNOON
OF HEAT THE EXPRESS- TRAIN DREW UP THERE
UNWONTEDLY. IT WAS LATE JUNE.

THE STEAM HISSES. SOMEONE CLEARED HIS THROAT.
NO ONE LEFT AND NO ONE CAME
ON THE BARE PLATFORM. WHAT I SAW
WAS ADLESTROP - ONLY THE NAME.

AND WILLOWS, WILLOW HERB, AND GRASS,
AND MEADOW SWEET, AND HAYCOCKS DRY,
NO WHIT LESS STILL AND LONELY FAIR
THAN THE HIGH CLOUDLETS IN THE SKY.

AND FOR THAT MINUTE A BLACKBIRD SANG
CLOSE BY, AND ROUND HIM, MISTIER,
FARTHER AND FARTHER, ALL THE BIRDS
OF OXFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

I think it is at Tynong, if you are lucky, you can get the same experience with bellbirds.

J. Eve

Recently our members Mr and Mrs E.McElroy celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We congratulate you both and hope that youmay have many more years together. Several members and friends gathered at the McElroy's home for a surprise party on Saturday 21st January.

GIPPSLAND EUCALYPTS.

Notes from a talk by Mr R.B.Reid 25/11/77

Gippsland is well represented by Eucalypt species containing more than half of the 90 species and sub species native to Victoria These include most of the Victorian hardwoods which are commercially valuable for sawmilling and pulp production.

In this short summary it is possible only to select a few having features of special interest. The names used are in accordance with "A Classification of the Eucalypts"by Pryor and Johnson, 1971, except for the Blue Gums which were revised by Kirkpatrick in 1975 in Forestry and Timber Bureau Bulletin No 47.

In classifying according to bark type the gum or smooth bark type is the largest group with nineteen examples.

Typifying this group is River Red Gum (E.camaldulensis) which is a common tree along the Latrobe River flats and the Princes Highway from Traralgon to near Providence ponds. This species is the most widespread of all eucalypts with a natural occurence in all mainland states. IN dry areas it is found only along water courses but intemperate areas is more widespread.

Another very similar species Forest Red Gum (E.tereticornis) extends from Providence Ponds to Lakes Entrance and from Glenmaggie to Licola. There is some overlapping of the areas where these two species grow and hybrid forms occur.

The four blue gums native to Gippsland have recently been classified as subspecies.The single-fruited variety Southern Blue Gum (E.globulus subspecies globulus) occurs only on Wilsons Promontory.This eucalypt is prized for its exceptionally fast growth rate and it is grown in plantations in many overseas countries to a greater extent than any other hardwood.

It is a surprising fact that eucalypts are so well established overseas and their growth rate so high in plantations that there is now five times the growth rate in eucalypt wood volume per annum outside Australia that there is in the whole of Australia.

Victorian Blue Gum (E.globulus subspecies bicostata) is common throughout much of Gippsland. It is very similar to Southern Blue Gum but has its buds and fruit in clusters of three. It also has the distinction of having the longest leaf of any eucalypt often exceeding 45 cm in length (18 inches).

Another interesting blue gum (E.globulus ssp. pseudoglobulus) Victorian Eurabbie with smaller pedicellote buds and fruit, still in threes, occurs at Metung and Stony Creek near Cowwarr.

Within the gum barked group Manna Gum (E.viminalis), Candlebark (E.rubida), Red Spotted Gum(E.mannifers ssp. maculosa) and Snow Gum (E.pauciflora)must all rate a mention.Whether grown as park or specimen trees, or occuring naturally, each species typifies the beauty and grandeur of the eucalypt.

contd....

GIPPSLAND EUCALYPTS. contd...

Eight representatives of the stringy bark group grow in the Central Gippsland area. These all have distinctive, thick, long-fibred bark generally extending to the upper branches.

Messmate Stringybark (E.obliqua) was the first eucalypt to be collected and described botanically, in 1788. it is the most common of the stringybarks in Gippsland and is valuable sawmilling and pulping species. Brown (E.baxteri), Red (E.macrorhyncha), Yellow (E.mulleriana)and White Stringybark (E.globoidea) all occur extensively through Gippsland. They are very similar trees in general appearance and in amny cases can only be positively identified from examination of the buds and fruits.

There are also eight species in the box group growing in Gippsland. This group has flaky or scaly bark that does not hold together like the stringybarks.

Yellow Box (E.melliodora) is widespread through Gippsland. Like most of the boxes it has hard durable timber suitable for structural use and for firewood. It is regarded as the best honey tree of all the eucalypta and yellow box honey sells for a premium.

Scent-bark (E.aromaphloia) is not yet generally listed as a Gippsland species although it is relatively common in the Boola Forest area, Yallourn, Walhalla, South Rosedale and Metung. Like Apple Box (E.bridgesiana)this species is not a true box having long leaves and different bud arrangements. Scent-bark trees can often be distinguished at a distance by the way the leaves hang vertically.

There are six representatives of the peppermint group in Central Gippsland. these have fine interlaced semi-fibrous bark. Narrow-leaved Peppermint (E.radiata) has a high content of oil in the leaves which produce a distinctive odour when crushed. Trees are generally small with a weeping appearance.

River Peppermint (E.elata) is mainly an East Gippsland species but it occurs also along the Macalister and Avon Rivers and at Stony Creek near Cowwarr. This is a handsome tree generally having a smooth white gum-barked upper trunk above a short dark fibrous stocking.

Mountain Ash (E.regnans) also has a semi-fibrous lower trunk and smooth upper trunk and limbs. This species is unquestionably the king of the Eucalypts. The world's tallest hardwood at present is a Mountain Ash in Tasmania 327 ft (99.7m) high and a well authenticated measurement on a tree felled in 1884 at Thorpdale 375 ft (114 m) would qualify for the tallest tree ever measured. It is a pity that so very lattle of the once widespread mature Mountain Ash forests now remain.

Silvertop (E.sieberi) and Red Ironbark (E.sideroxylon ssp. tricarpa) are the only two ironbark types growing in Gippsland. As the name implies the Gippsland Red Ironbark has buds and fruits in groups of three which distinguishes it from the seven-fruited subspecies growing north of the dividing range. Flowers may be either yellow or pink.

GIPPSLAND EUCALYPTS contd...

To complete the summary of Gippsland eucalypts there are a few species which do not readily fit into the groups already covered.

Bogong Gum (E.chapmaniana) is listed as occuringonly to the north of the dividing range, but there are some good specimens at Dinner Creek on the Mt Tamboritha road approximately 24 km from Licola. Samples from these trees have been confirmed by the National Herbarium. Bogong Gum was not identified as a separate species until 1947. It is a half-barked tree with persistent dark bark on the lower half of the trunk and a clean gum-barked upper half.

Mallee Ash (E.kybeanensis) Spinning Gum (E.perriniana) Tingiringi Gum (E.glaucescens) and Omeo Gum (E.neglecta)are all small tree species growing in isolated areas at high altitude. Because of their smaller size they are more suitable as garden specimens than most eucalypts.

One species which has proved elusive to locate is Blue Mountains Mallee (E.stricta) which is reported to grow on Mt Wellington as its only Victorian occurence. However several excursions to the Mt Wellington area failed to locate it and I would be pleased to receive information from anyone who can assist in determining its growth habitat in victoria.

R.B.Reid.

This article had previously been written up by Miss Jean Galbraith but during the holidays was lost in transit to Mr Reid.
We thank Mr Reid for rewriting the article from his own notes. Ed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD January 17th.

Gas Turbine Inquiry .Decided that the club would not present any submissions. Individual members may do so if they wish.
We felt that this issue is out of our field of interest, but none the less important.

There was little correspondence to discuss.
Publications received ENVIRONS, ECOS. Victorian Naturalist.

Decided that the February meeting would be a special evening, and we would invite other clubs to come and hear Dr Turner speak on a most interesting subject.
Ladies asked to bring a plate for supper.

Much of the evening was spent in arranging details of the campout to Holmes Plain. Members will now know that the weekend was cancelled because of the acute fire risk in the area. As well as that we would have been washed out had we gone there.

Details for February excursion completed.

Next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Padfield, 99 Chamberlain road Newborough on February 21st at 7.30 pm.

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 31st and election of OFFICE BEARERS .The offices open for nominations are

Secretary held by Mrs Petreson, Vice President No 2 Held by Mr Eric Lubcke and Vice President No 3 Held by Mr O?Thompson.
The Treasurer Mr Lester has also indicated that he may not wish to accept his position after the annual meeting.

Nomination forms below to be handed to the Secretary Mrs Peterson before the Committee Meeting March 28th.

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB.

Date.....

Nomination form for office

I wish to nominate .....
of .....for the position of
.....of this club.

Proposer.....

Seconder.....

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office

.....

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Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Rd.
YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 Family $4.50 Single Member $4.00

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NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday March 17th
"Local Wildflowers"
Illustrated talk by J&M.Brooks.

EXCURSION: Sunday March 19th to the
Warragul Shire Nursery at 10.30am.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday March 31st (Annual Meeting)
"Mini Photoflora"

EXCURSION: Saturday April 1st
Mt Useful area

MEETING PLACE: Toongabbie (The OAsis) at 10.00am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday April 7th
" Peregrine Falcon" Mr Ken Morris

EXCURSION: Merrimans Creek
Contact Secretary for details

PHOTOFLORA

Saturday March 18th at Sale
Cathedral Hall, corner Macalister
and Pearson Streets, at 8.00 pm.

WON WRON FOREST.

On the four occasions in January we spent from 6pm. to 8.30pm beside a fire dam in the Won Wron Forest, we sat close to the edge of the dam for the first hour or so and where we were partly screened by low vegetation, and then we moved into the car which served as a partial hide.

Although conscious of our prescence most of the birds came to drink while we were close to the edge of the dam. Generally among the first to come were :- Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Red-browed firetail, Superb blue wren, Brown thornbill, Scarlet robin, Grey fantail, Grey shrike-thrush. When a Crimson Rosella finally decided not to be deterred by us and settled down in the water at the shallow end other birds joined in:-white-throated treecreeper, Eastern Yellow robin, Eastern Spinebill. Only once did a Sacred Kingfisher come.

On each occasion a pair of Gang Gang Cockatoo perched in a tree above the dam but would not drink until we moved into the car and each time the female was the first to drink. The Common bronzewing only came when we were in the car. They flew to ground some distance from the dam and slowly zigzagged to the water. Kookaburra, Red Wattlebird and australian Raven were in the trees near the dam but did not come to drink.

Of interest was a handsome Bantam rooster which had evidently reverted to the wild state. On each occasion it appearedfrom the undergrowth as dusk approached, flew into a low branch of the same yellow stringybark tree and then climbed to a height of about 10 metres before settling down in a leafy branch for the night. About six Crimson rosella also settled down in the same tree.

Keith Black.

GROUND WASPS.

Recently we had a plague of army worm caterpillars. Also we have ground wasps which dig a hole in the ground. they then capture prey which they paralyse and put in the hole with the egg. When the larvae hatch they have a store of fresh food. We have seen them using grasshoppers and spiders as prey. However during the caterpillar plague Ollie observed a wasp flying back to the nest with a caterpillar bigger than himself. the wasp landed a little way from the hole, as they always do, then it used its two front feet to hold the caterpillar and walked to the hole dragging the caterpillar under its body. It looked quite comical.

On reading the reference book to see if I could identify the wasp, I think the kind of prey used may be an identification to the species. So we have probably seen three different species.

Bon Thompson.

TALK ON ASTRONOMY BY KEN BRYANT 20.1.78

The talk by Mr Ken Bryant was heard with great interest by the 24 people present. The talk was in two parts , the first carried us until we had a quick supper, the second part was a visit to the observatory on Coach Road hill.

Part 1. consisted in describing objects which can be seen with the naked eye or binoculars.

1. The moon
2. Large numbers of points of light of different brightnesses

These are stars and planets.

3. Areas of misty light.
   - (a) The milky way
   - (b) The Majellanic clouds.
   - (c) Nebulae which are masses of gas.
   - (d) Star clusters.
   - (e) Comets.
4. Moving objects.
   - (a) Meteors which are tiny pieces of rock or metal.
   - (b) Artificial satellites, rocket casings, there are thousands of these.

1. THE MOON. The earths companion in space, 240,000miles away, moving through space with the earth.It is rocky with no life. Diameter 2,000 miles which is 1/4 of earths diameter.

2. PLANETS At present 3 bright planets can be seen in the Northern sky.

JUPITER is the largest planet in our Solar system with a diameter of 80,000miles, No solid surface, belts of cloud in the atmosphere. Four bright satellites revolve around it and can be seen with binoculars.

MARS About half the diameter of the earth, a bright orange color to the naked eye. No longer thought that there is life there after Viking Space Probe of 1976.

SATURN A beautiful sight in the telescope , with a ring system. Binoculars almost show the ring.A gaseous body similar to Jupiter but about twice as far away.

THE STARS These are bodies l ke the Sun but further away, The sun is our star. The nearest star is Alpha Centauri, one of the pointers of the Southern Cross, it is 4 light years away.
If it were possible to travel at 25,000 miles per hour, that is the speed of the fastest moon rocket, it would take 115,000 years to reach Alpha Centauri.
Other stars are further away again, we live in a disc shaped system of stars 100,000 lifgt years across. this means 25,000 times the distance of Alpha Centauri across to cross it at 25,000 M.P.H. would take 2,880 million years. The disc system causes the appearance of a band of light in the sky(the milky way),when we look through the thickness of the disc the Majellenic clouds are smaller systems of starsseen near the South Pole of the sky and at 150,000 light years distance away.

contd.....

ASTRONOMY contd...

Nebulae are clouds of gas in space, mainly hydrogen from which stars are formed. The brightest is the Orion Nebula in the handle of the formation called the saucepan and can be seen with the naked eye or binoculars as a milky patch, and other clusters near the south pole of the sky.

Comets are frozen gases, dust and rock moving around the sun in elliptical orbits.At one point of the orbit close to the sun, at the other point out beyond the edge of the Solar System. Halley's Comet returns every 76 years and has been seen since Roman times. The next return is in 1986.

Meteors are tiny pieces of rock or iron hurtlingthrough space which burn up in the earth's atmosphere and look like a shooting star. they are about 60 miles up when they become visible.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE

It is thought the universe started about 15,000 million years ago, with an enormous explosion of all material in it and that it has been expanding ever since.

After the big bang, material collected together to form stars and star systems like the milky way and planets like the earth. The earth is thought to be about 5,000 million years old.

It is not known if life has evolved elsewhere in the universe. It is possible however that there may be large numbers of planets with life and recent studies suggest that there may be up to 400 civilisations of an advanced type such as ours elsewhere in the milky way galaxy.

A selection of slides followed. Astronomical objects, Apollo missions, Sky Lab earth orbiting missions and photos of MArs from orbit. The Planetary nebulae which are the result of an explosionof a star e.g. the Crab Nebula.
Gaseous Nebula such as the Orion Nebula. Star Clusters such as the Seven Sisters. Spiral Galaxies e.g. Andromeda Galaxy.
Apollo mission slides including rockets taking off from Cape Kennedy, the moon from orbit, Moon landers and Lunar Roving vehicle Astronauts on the moon surface. the earth from space.
Sky Lab slides showed Skylab in orbit around the earth, Astronauts in sky lab. Astronauts working on damaged equipment.
Mars slides were taken between 1969 and 1972 for Mariner space probes and showed huge volcanoes on the moon, /The Martian Polar Cap, Craters on Mars similar to the craters on the moon.

Thus ended part 1 of the talk, and then we all travelled to the Observatory. It was a good evening for viewing through the telescope as we one by one mounted the steps to look at the stars. Mr Sterkenburg thanked Mr Bryant for his trouble and for the inter esting eveningwe had all enjoyed.

T.Moretti.

EXCURSION TO PHILLIP ISLAND.

On Saturday, 25th February, 1978 the Latrobe Valley Club met at San Remo for an excursion to the Spit on Phillip Isl and to look for wading birds. Among the 13 cars which left San Remo at 9.40 am was that driven by Dr. Elizabeth Turner, our guest speaker who had the night before given an extremely interesting talk on her visit to the Galapagos Islands.

Our leader for the day, Mr Eric Lubcke, took us to Silverleaves Estate on the west side of the Island from where a short path led through the ti-tree and banksia scrub to the beach. The first bird species to make its prescence known in the scrub was the Little Wattle-bird whichwere numerous. Other birds in this area were Grey Thrush, Silvereye, Blue Wren, Welcome Swallow. Once onto the beach, which was quite deserted except for the odd Silver Gull and Pacific Gull, it was at least a mile's walk along the beach to the spit and, during this walk, one member sighted several small flocks of Greenfinches.

A common jelly-fish was also found on the beach and some of us walked right up to a Silver Gull sitting on a pile of dead sea-weed thrown up by a high tide. Although he did not appear to be ill or injured in any way, it did not seem a very likely nesting place and we are not certain to this day what he was doing there.

When we arrived at the Spit soon after 11.00 am., we were greeted by what could almost have been described as a bird-watchers paradise.. Silver Gulls, Pacific Gulls, Pelicans, Black Swans and Bar-tailed Godwits were there in large numbers. The Godwits however , had us all stumped for a while as it was very difficult to approach close enough for identification. Of particular interest were birds which appeared to be Godwits, but which had rufous fronts and black tipped tails and were later discovered to be Bar-tailed Godwits in breeding plumage.

Other species present in smaller numbers were Eastern Curlew, White and Straw-necked Ibis, Masked (Spur-winged)Plover, Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Oyster-catcher, White -faced Heron, Crested Tern, white Egret, a pair of Caspian Tern and one only immature Pacific Gull in brown plumage.

On walking back to the sand dunes for lunch (it was quite a cold, windy day), which mostof us had carried in, we found large numbers of Mediterranean snails were present in the marram grass. After lunch and a closer look at some of the birds as they were pushed towards us by the incoming tide, we walked back to the cars, where it was voted that we would finish the day by driving to Rhyll and then to the Nobbies.

contd...

EXCURSION TO PHILLIP ISLAND contd..

From the top of the hill at Rhyll we had a marvellous view of the Spit where an even larger number of Black Swans were now swimming and, in smaller groups, flying gracefully towards us. The Pelicans were now gathered together on a rocky reef not far out and the Godwits were strung out along the water's edge on the far side. In a green paddock behind the cliff a flock of about 30 White Ibis were feeding.

We here gave a vote of thanks to Mr Lubcke for bringing us to this wonderful place, which is already showing signs of man's destructive influence, several large oil slicks having been found on the beach, and again thanked Dr. Turner, who had shown great interest in the trip, for her talk the previous night. We then went to the Nobbies where, we visited the blowholes (which weren't working due to the almost calm sea) and a few seals could be seen on Seal Rock. The excursion then dispersed from here at around 4.30 pm.

Jane Purbrick.

HATTAH LAKES BIRD NOTES

Four weeks after our visit to Hattah Lakes when we had seen the White-winged Chough community feeding hungry young mouths in the nest we returned there and were able to renew aquaintance with the same group. Four adults with red eyes and four youngsters were working their way along the lakeside bushes with three adults scratching with their claws and digging with their beaks to find food for the squawking young. One adult was feeding two young ones (not always alternately), while two other adults fed one young one each and the fourth adult was a few feet away finding its own food in a less harassed manner. When the main mob moved up to this indi vidual bird it would then give food to the nearest noisy young one until it could move away again. This we saw at a deserted part of the lake shore.

But a few days later they were back in the vicinity of their nesting tree with all four adults still working hard feeding the noisy young. Here there were several people walking past every few minutes but the birds were relatively undisturbed by them. Interesting to note too, that it was the only bird conscious humans who really noticed the noisy Choughs!

E.P.Brewster.

Continuing the Christmas Beetle Story.....

The Pear stump is slowly weathering and the Christmas Beetles have emerged. Yesterday there were three eating the young tips on our coastal Manna Gum with a dead one beneath the tree. There are two holes 1.5 cm in diameter in the stump where the beetles have apparently made their way out.

E.P.Brewster.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 21st 1978

We had been informed that the title of Mr Bryants talk was given as "Astrology" . We now know the subject to be "Astronomy". Apologies to Mr Bryant for this error which should not have occured .

Publications received:-
C.C.V.Newsletter
Clematis
Victorian Naturalist
Environs
North East Naturalist (Tasmania)

April 1st excursion the Mt Useful.
We are still looking for a leader for this day.

Please give some thought to the nomination forms for the annual meeting March 31st.
The Secretary advised that she would like some relief with her duties. Mrs Puckey will take this task.
We must think of a new Secretary for the future as Mrs Peterson does not want to have this position for ever.
Mrs Thompson advised that she would like the position of Publicity Officer to be taken by someone else. Mrs Thompson is also Conservation Co-ordinator for the Club, and this takes up a lot of her time, therefore she cannot give her full attention to publicity matters.

There was discussion relevant to the cancellation of the weekend campout at Holmes Plain. It was unfortunate but under the circumstances the best decision . We would have been washed out instead of being worried about fires.

BIRD ATLASSERS CAMPOUT will be held at Licola April 22, 23.
If you are interested in this scheme or would like to attend the campout contact Atlas Officer Melbourne
R.A.O.U. 119 Dryburgh Street
North Melbourne 3051.

Wirilda, Mr Thompson had attended the last meeting of the committee There are some developments, but generally it is a slow process waiting for finance etc etc.

Next Committee Meeting will be held March 21st at the home of Mr and Mrs Thompson, Downies Lane Traralgon South At 7.30pm.

SICK PARADE

Several of our members have been in hospital recently.
Mr Ken McDonald injured his finger , and has not been able to assemble the Naturalist . Hope you are back in action soon.

Mr S.Belgraver had an accident to an eye. The Club sent cards and flowers to him. Many recent members will not remember him but he was our Secretary for some years.

Our present Secretary Mrs Peterson underwent an operation on her ear. Best Wishes Iris. We want you back in our midst soon.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday April 21st Mr E.Lightermoet "Outdoor activities"
EXCURSION	Sunday April 23rd Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday April 28th Mrs E.Brewster "KIng Island"
EXCURSION	Saturday April 29th to Wreck Beach
Meeting PLace	Smith St Parking area by Shire offices in Leongatha at 10.00 am

If coming late... Wreck Beach is just beyond the Harmer's Haven turn from the beach end of Cameron St.Wonthaggi.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday May 5th Mr Graeme Suckling "Sugar Glider"
EXCURSION	Sunday May 7th to Willung area 9.00 am. Contact Secretary for further details.

"IN THE STEPS OF DARWIN"

Address by Dr Elizabeth Turner

Twelve Victorian Naturalists under the leadership of Mr. Jack Hyett , spent one week in the Galapagos Islands in June 1976. Galapagos, which translates as the Isle of the tortoise, is astride the equator and 700 miles off the coast of Equador. In the ocean off Equador two main currents meet; the Humboldt current coming from the cold waters of the south and the Sub-equatorial Cromwell current from the west. The meeting of the currents cause a heavy mist to rise and this forms a layer of clouds (The Garua) thus making life livable on the volcanic islands. There are 6 large islands, 42 small islands and 6 minor islands. Many of the volcanoes that formed these islands are still active today. At Academy Bay 200 tremors have been recorded in one day.

The islands are a purely reptilian domain as there are no native mammals. In 1535 the Bishop of Panama was on a boat caught in a storm. They were blown to the Galapagos Islands. The Bishop reported the Giant Tortoises and the Iguanas.The islands were known as theEnchanted Islands as sailors had great difficulty in locating them. Charles Darwin was the naturalist on the ship "The Beagle" which visited the islands in 1835. Darwin's great work on the origin of species was written as a result of his 6 weeks stay on the islands. Darwin questioned the accepted belief, at that time, that species were unalterable and that there was no such thing as evolution. It was thought that animals had only existed on earth for 6,000 years. Darwin was impressed by the difference in species of Finches on different islands. He developed the theory that they had all evolved from one species and that their evolution was governed by the type of food that was available on the island where that species evolved. The species that evolved were those that were fittest to survive in the struggle for existence. Darwin showed how the main species evolved into 3 sub-species - differentiated by the shape and size of their bills. The largest bill was developed by birds that needed to crack hard seeds,while the smallest bill belongs to the species that live on insects. The Cactus Finch used a tool - a cactus spine - to obtain its food from under the bark.

The terrain is volcanic in origin. There is some sand but mostly laval rocks. On some shorelines there are areas of mangroves, while in the drier arid areas species of prickly pear are the predominant plants.Near the tops of the volcanoes"sunflower" trees up to 30 ft high grow.On the volcano slopes of the 3 inhabited islands grow many tropical fruits. There are many paant species on the islands. Many curious phenomena occur amongst the natural species on the islands compared with related species elsewhere.Seagulls are pitch black and forage for food at night; Pelicans are brown; crabs live on land instead of in the sea and prickly pears have large trunks with striated bark.

contd....

" IN THE STEPS OF DARWIN" contd

Dr Turner showed slides and films of many of the birds of the islands. These included - Lava Gulls, one of the rarest birds in the world, they are pitch black. Herons and Noddies are also completely black. There was a colony of Flamingoes, the only one in that area of the world. The Flamingoes were the only species that were afraid of man.The Mockingbirds are programmed to pick up any insects that are disturbed. In these islands the Mockingbirds follow people for the same reason and peck around the peoples feet.The Swallow-tail Gulls were so tame that they brought their baby out of the nest, whether to be seen or for the baby to observe the people is undecided. There were three species of Boobies. The Blue-footed Boobie has bright blue feet and incubates the eggs with the warmth of the feet. there is an enormous colony of masked Boobies in the crater of one of the volcanoes although there is little vegetation there. there are many Frigate Birds and because there were more females than males, it is not very difficult to find a male displaying his beautiful red pouch. The only colony of Waived Albatross occur on these islands. They are big birds and need an elevation high above sea level to get enough lift to take off. They are very tame and came close to Dr. Turner, They have yellow bushy eyebrows. Penguins, usually associated with colder regions, have a colony on the equator in these islands. The Cormorants in this area have lost the use of their wings for flying. The Vermillion Flycatcher pecks ticks off the necks of the big tortoises. Sooty Oystercatchers are also present, Tropic Birds nest half way down the cliff face. Their long red tail feather is spectacular.

The reptilian life is very interesting.The Marine Iguanas are often seen basking in the sun. This is because they feed on algae on the bottom of the sea at 30 ft depth. They can become paralysed with the cold and when their body temperature reaches 90 deg. F. they float up to the surface to raise their body temperature. Sunning is the quickest way. It has to be 98-99 deg. before they can dive again. The Iguanas snort out salt and therefore were originally thought of as dragons. The Lava Lizards have the third eye in their head and are the most abundant of the reptiles. The giant Tortoises, weighing 400-500 pounds travel at a speed of up to 15 feet per hour. Bright red Sally Lightfoot crabs are everywhere on the lava rocks but seldom enter the sea. Land Iguanas are big creatures about 4 ft. long which feed on the landvegetation and are especially fond of the Prickly Pear leaves. Both land and Marine Iguanas are found nowhere else on our planet in such abundance. Giant Mantarays inhabit the mangroves. Sea Lions and fur seals live on some islands all the year round.

Santa Cruz has a hotel for visitors but the rooms have bird eating spiders in them sometimes. The Darwin Research Station, also atSanta Cruz, was opened by Huxley in1956 and each year 40 men or women do research programmes funded by their own National Societies.

contd....

" IN THE STEPS OF DARWIN" contd..

It is an intertanionally run institute and people are permitted to work there for one year or more. Much research is done on the peculiar creatures of the area. One of the programmes is to perpetuate the different species of tortoises. This programme is necessary because it is estimated that 39,000 Giant tortoises have been taken for fresh meat over the years. Stacked in a ship they would live for a year without food or water and provide the men with fresh meat. The research programme is to take the young when the hatch and provide for them. However they are 20 years old before they reach maturity and can be released safely. They have no natural enemies on the island but introduced goats dig up the eggs to eat. A pair of goats was liberated in 1957 and they multiplied to 45,000 by the time the research team tried to eliminate them. They must be eliminated from the islands where the tortoises will be released when mature. Cats and Pigs have also been introduced to these islands.

Dr. Turner showed slides and film taken on the trip, illustrating the different modes of transport necessary to visit many of these islands. The group visited many of the islands during their stay and revelled in the fact that most of the creatures were not afraid of man and could therefore be photographed at close quarters.

It was very interesting to visit, by means of Doctor's camera, so many places and see so many interesting and unusual sights, plants, reptiles and birds.

Bon Thompson.

UNEXPECTED VISITORS.

Seen on the way to the South Gippsland outing on 6th November '77. A flock of over 50 Cattle Egrets among grazing cattle in a paddock beside the road to Harmer's Haven. Once these birds were known only in Eurasia and Africa but in the past years have spread to America, Australia and New Zealand. These birds have a hunched stance which makes them look as though they are miserable white egrets at first glance. But on closer inspection their bills and legs are different colours and in their breeding plumage, as many of these were, they are quite distinctive with yellow plumes and head and neck colouring.

E.P.BREWSTER.

WARRAGUL F.N.C. members please note that your SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due at a cost of $4.00. It would be appreciated if you could attend to this matter promptly thua avoiding cessation of the Naturalist and further reminders.

Members of L.V.F.N.C. who knew him will feel a sense of loss in hearing of the death on April 6th of our friend and fellow member Keith Rogers of Wulgulmerang.

He was a fine naturalist who knew the wild life, especially plants, of the high country round wulgulmerang as no one else knows them; a devout Christian whose life exemplified his beliefs; and a friend whom we shall not forget.

He was a member both of our club and Bairnsdale F.N.C., and wrote regularly and most knowledgably for the Clematis and sometimes our Naturalist, and rarely missed a January campout.

He discovered several undescribed species of plants, and recorded others for the first time as growing in Victoria but his greatest gift was his warm friendship and readiness to share his unrivalled knowledge of the mountains north of Buchan.
Last summer (1977), just before his 81st birthday he went camping and flower hunting in the Kybean Range with fellow naturalist Bill Cane. It is good to know he could share such pleasures almost to the end of his life.

His funeral service in Bairnsdale on 8th April was attended by Mrs Iris Peterson, Miss Galbraith and Mr Bart Sterkenburg.

Another sad note was struck when the death of Mr Reg Stephens was announced. Mr Stephens retired from Yallourn to reside in Boronia (Melbourne) some years ago.

He was a keen member of L.V.F.N.C. for several years ,and enjoyed many outings with us. He was the first Publicity Officer for the L.V.F.N.C..

Always a keen gardener, his home in Yallourn and in Boronia had lovely surroundings with the many flowers he and his wife had grown. He was interested in the Historical aspect of the area and I believe was a regular contributor to these publications.

SOME THANKYOUS

Mrs Peterson would like to say thankyou to all members for the visits, flowers, get well cards, gifts and phone calls during her recent stay in hospital.

Thanks to Mrs Thompson for taking over the duties as Secretary so willingly. To Mrs Puckey for taking the minutes of the last General and Annual Meetings.

All these many kindnesses make me realise how very fortunate I am in having such wonderful friends.

A note from Mr Belgraver expressed thanks for the visits, flowers and fruit sent to him while in hospital recently.

VARANUS WITH LUNCH

Encouraged by the sudden surge of mushrooms and toadstools that followed the rains of early February we thought it might be worth visiting the Forest Walk at Darlimurla to see what might be offering in rarer fungi. Actually the forest was rather dry and yielded only a few forest mushrooms and some enchanting little native snails under rotting logs.

While lunching at the picnic tables on this lovely day which began with a fog but turned out surprisingly hot in the afternoon, we were startled to see a goanna come marching out of the scrub towards us. It was about four feet long from tip of nose to tip of tail, beautifully marked in grey and white with a long tail that was banded in the same colours. We thought it wasnt fully mature but looked young and slender. Naturally we held our breaths lest we frighten this wildling, trudging so confidently forward.

We soon discovered, as the goanna climbed the post and proceeded to sort the contents of the nearest bin, that he or she didnt give a hoot for tourists, excepting that that they meant tucker. Specially interesting to him was the stiff silver foil that had enclosed take-away meals. This fellow battled to roll up the bits of foil and swallow them. We know that goannas, like emus and ostriches, have a reputation for being able to digest almost anything, but this foil business could mean lead poisoning? So I found a forked stick and tried to hold this determined dragon back while I twitched the foil out of reach. No good.
He leapt after it and succeeded in swallowing one lot down.
We tried him with a biscuit. A bit of cake ?but urk! he didnt eat sweets.

It was my turn to rummage in a bin and I came up with two delicious grilled chop bones. that fixed him. The foil lost its charm at once and grasping a chop bone crossways like a moustache Varanus waddled happily away to eat it. I fear for him though, in such a public place, such a cuddlesome fellow ducking in and out of the bins and barbeques. I think he was just a common goanna, Varanus varius, but he showed no inclination to climb a tree, and no fear of man, and so photogenic. This new legislation which aims at giving protection to lizards and tortoises and even snakes comes none too soon, as people invade the forests.

Ellen Lyndon.

A note from Mrs K.Eve of Warragul concerns the Birds.
She writes " We have lived here on a dairy farm 3 miles north of Warragul for just on 30 years and during that time we have had butcher birds around all the time until about 2 years ago they started to go. They have nested in the cypress trees and we have seen the nests and the young birds. We now have the pleasure of lots of little birds, no doubt because the butcher birds have gone, but can anyone tell us why they have gone after all this time? There does not seem to be any obvious reason.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 21ST 1978

We had been advised that it was no longer necessary to post a copy of the Naturalist to the Marketing Branch in Melbourne. One copy of the Naturalist is to be handed to the postal officer at the time of posting.

NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION.
Decided that we would send a donation to the trust fund which has been set up in an effort to keep going with this award.
Decided that we would support the nomination of Mr W.Payne

CONSERVATION MATTERS

From the E.P.A. a copy of the paper "The Waters of the Latrobe River Catchment".
Draft Environment Protection Policy and Explanatory notes.

From the S.E.C. Environment Effects Statement.
Second 200 MW Block of Emergency Gas Turbines.

Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board.
Environmental Effects Statement. Saline Wastewater Outfall Pipeline.

Transcript of Evidence before the Public Works Committee re Emergency Gas Turbine Inquiry.
All these papers available for members perusal.

From the C.C.V. Request for information on the impact of a Pipeline from Longford to Rosedale (Natural Gas. Gas and Fuel Co)
Other publications received. ECOS, C.C.V.Newsletter
Victorian Naturalist, N.E.Naturalist (Tas)

Supper Roster April 28th. Mr and Mrs Lubcke

Next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday April 18th at the home of Miss Galbraith Tyers at 7.30 pm.
Members welcome to attend these meeting if they are interested in the "business" of the club.

Details of April excursion sent by Mrs Brewster. These are shown on inside of front cover.

LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL Alpine Area Proposed Recommendations

These papers are now available free of charge and may be collected from 7a Parliament Place ,East Melbourne or from the Community Services Centre Bookshop 1st floor, 356 Collins Street Melbourne.
Written requests should be addressed to the Government Printer P.O.Box 203 North Melbourne 3051.
Submissions are invited from interested persons in respect of the recommendations, and must be lodged before Monday June 12th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are NOW DUE

Family $ 4.50
Single $ 4.00
Naturalist $ 3.50

Please pay Treasurer at Meeting or post to 61 Strzelecki Road Yallourn 3838

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Rd.
YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 Family $4.50 Single Member $4.00

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

is the official publication of the Latrobe Field Naturalist Club. Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon.Editor, Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

MAY, 1978

ISSUE No. 173

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

Protect and enjoy

30c.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday May 19th
Mrs O'Mara "Natural Foods"

EXCURSION: Sunday 21st May
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday May 26th.
Mrs Lyndon "Key to Fungi"

EXCURSION: Saturday May 27th to the Crossover area near Neerim.

Meeting place Gunn's QGully parking area at 9.30 am.

We intend to travel along the Old Sale Road to Buln Buln where we will be met by the Brooksfamily at approximately 10.00 am or 10.15 depending how much we stop on the way.

Our meeting place is where the Wilma Neerim road crosses the Old Sale Road. If you do not wish to travel the Old Sale Rd travel the Princes Highway to Wilma and turn right over the railway to Neerim and meet the party as they come along.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday June 9th
"Members Night"

EXCURSION: To be arranged .
Contact Secretary for details.

MT.USEFUL EXCURSION

The weather at Toongabbie was fine although some members had left home in rain. The first area we passed through was where the Toongabbie fire had burnt. Much of the area has been tilled but where the ground was left undisturbed it is bright green with fresh grass.

Our first stop was at the site of one of the original hotels on McEvoy's track that led to the early goldfields. April is not a time for many flowers in the bush;but we did see some heath and fungi, while Honeypots were in bud ready for the flowers in June. Hyacinth Orchids had several stalks carrying many seed pods. The early flowers on the Sunshine Wattle gave promise of more to come, while the Cherry Ballart flowers had to be pointed out before being noticed as they are very tiny and the same colour as the branches. Many species of Eucalypts were identified, although one with round opposite leaves and sessile fruits at the leaf axils puzzled the"experts". This small tree was later keyed out to be the Mealy Stringybark (E.cinerea) and the leaves were at the intermediate not adult stage. Several birds were identified.
Galls caused some comment as the eucalypt leaves were parasitised by the Apple Gall which contains the larva of a member of the large order of insects including Ants, bees and wasps. Witches Brooms, also forms of galls, are due to fungus or thrip like insects. Witches Broom was seen on several of the eucalypts.

Next stop was to view the mountains and the plains. Maffra was identified and further over were the Gippsland Lakes.

Along the roadside Senecio lautus (Fireweed) had many yellow daisies. The Hop Goodenia also had flowers in bloom.

Lunch was taken at the Springs; but nobody had time to just sit and eat, so everyone either observed birds (including robins) or found fungi of many varying types and smells(or should I say odours). A fern gully was too wet to explore and time was short.

On to Mt Useful where the gatr was locked so that the cars were parked at the beginning of the track. Members walked to the top. I was surprised to find flowers at this time of the year; b but we were greeted at the turnoff by clumps of Gentians which, although not properly open because of the cold, dull day, were very beautiful. On the way to the top Wild Violets on long stalks caught our attention, two different species of Beard Heaths had berries - one species with red berries and one with opaque berries. The Mountain Pepper had tiny yellow flowers, the Curling Everlasting flowers persisted and one bright Orange Everlasting was there to greet us. Many of the plants had well developed buds for the next flowering season. The Alpine Wattle must be a sight at flowering time as it had so many buds. the Victorea Grevillea also had well developed buds. The views from the top were quite spectacular as the air was very clear. Lake Glenmaggie was easily identifiable and several of the surrounding towns.

contd...

MT. USEFUL EXCURSION contd...

Those members watching for birds saw a young Lyrebird, (we all heard one down in the valley), and two Pelicans flew right over Mt. Useful.Many small birds flitted among the branches of the Snow Gums.

Back at the cars we decided to return via Walhalla. the weatherhad looked threatening several times but it had not rained. We travelled along Binns Road which is along the ridge. On many occasions the views - still spectacular- looked towards Aberfeldy and across the rugged country in that area. On the other side of the ridgewe looked towards Seaton and over the country we had travelled in the morning.

After reaching the junction owith the Aberfeldy road the weather finally broke and through Walhalla to Erica it rained.

On the road from Mt. Useful to Binns Road two beautiful Wedge tailed Eagles were observed soaring overhead and onthe road to Walhalla the last car saw two male Lyrebirds on the road and roadside. I do not have the number of birds recorded for the day.

Mr JOhn Morgan, who led the excursion, was thanked at Mt Useful as he had to return to Traralgon. Because of the number of stops and the interesting finds at each, the excursion had taken longer than Mr Morgan had anticipated. He was thanked for his leadership and presented with a small gift.

Bon Thompson.

A BOOK OF INTEREST TO CONSERVATIONISTS.

"They All Ran Wild" by Eric Rolls. This gives the story of pests on the land in Australia. The first part deals with rabbits and the second with other pests; foxes, hares, blackberries and birds, domestic animals and fish, rats and donkeys, camels.
There are also chapters on dingoes and kangaroos, acclimatization and Acclimatization Societies.. The writer has a great understanding and appreciation of the natural world and makes an interesting story of his researches. there is also a Bibliography and Index. The book is published by Angus and Robertson and is available as a paperback or hardbound volume.

For naturalists who might be interested in that class of vertibralt animals known as Amphibia, a FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN FROGS, from Rigbys, by Barker & Grigg, would be a useful addition to the bookshelf. It is illustrated with 161 color photographs, drawings, distribution maps and text, plus a wealth of information on a subject of which we amateurs know little.
Priced at $9.95 over the counter.

Thanks to Mrs Brewster and Mrs Lyndon for these Book notes.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE WADING BIRDS.

Following our very pleasant excursion to Philip Island in February I'm sure many of us are realising how little we really know about the Waders, those shore birds of the Family Scolopacidae that hunt their food in the shallows of the seashores and inlets, and the margins of lakes and swamps.

We often hear of public figures that wear two hats, but these birds wear two suits of feathers, a plain grey brown one for their summer holidays abroad, changing into richer and more colorful plumage for their courting days in the breeding season, up near the Arctic Circle. Actually their migrations are arranged so that they enjoy both the northern and southern summers, avoiding winter altogether, as do some fortunate people. The birds arrive in Southern Australia about August and stay with us until April or May, A few stragglers over-wintering here.

In breeding plumage the waders may be readily identified, but in their plain clothes they all look much alike, especially when viewed from a distance through fieldglasses. The prescence ofrusty red birds amongst the Bar-tailed godwits on the Spit caused some confusion among those of us who do not see waders often and had not realised that the breeding plumage may be donned before departure.

When sorting the waders the shape of the bill is an important point to look for. Largest of all in both body and bill is the Eastern Curlew. It stands tall among the other species with a long clumsy seven inch bill curved downwards. It is not incommon along our southern shores. At the other end of the scale is the Little Stint, slightly larger than a sparrow and weighing only about an ounce and a half. It feeds in flocks, racing along the edge of the water on "feet so tiny each featherstitch track is lost when the next wave rushes back". When disturbed the flock flies fast and erratically, flashing silver in the sun like a shoal of sardines.

Between these extremes is a range of sandpipers of roughly the same size, mainly feeding in flocks. Perhaps the Sharptails are the commonest, with Curlew sandpipers running a close second. There are others with intriguing names like Tattlers and Godwits and Greenshanks and Knots, Marsh and Terek sandpipers. Some with their noses turned up, some with Roman noses or just plain straight ones. Glasses and easy to carry bird books are necessary for the wader-watcher, plus lots of time and patience. The B.O.C.puts out a handy FIELD GUIDE TO THE WADERS;Roy Coopers Wilson's Promontory National Park &its Avifauna, and his Birds of a Saltmarsh (S.A.) hold many clues; Slater's Field Guides are excellent, and the Readers Digest book a mine of information if you have a wheelbarrow to carry it. It is one of the few books that says we may expect to see some of the waders in breeding plumage in the autumn.

contd.....

WADING BIRDS contd...

Good places to see waders round our Southern coasts during this month, March, and April, are the Altona Saltings with their settling ponds and marshes just west of Melbourne. The tidal flats of Western Port; Tarwin Estuary; with shallow Inlet and the long beaches of Yanakie to the mouth of the darby perhaps best of all in our country. Both at port Welshpool and Port Albert large stretches of grassy flats are bared at low tide and many birds may be seen there. The waders will be congregating a t these places now in preparation for the long flight to their northern breeding grounds.

Ellen Lyndon

PHOTOFLORA'78

March 18th was the showing of these slides at Sale. There was a good attendance to see the 204 slides chosen from 1143 submitted by 131 people. The sections were AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS
Victorian Wildflowers
Australian Birds and In the Bush with a Camera.
Mr J Brooks from Warragul and a member of Warragul and Latrobe Valley F.N.C. was awarded the Paul Fisch trophy presented by the Ringwood F.N.C. The slide was one of Red-beaks(Lyperanthus nigricans). Mrs Brooks had slides accepted in two sections.

Mrs Andrews (Sale) and Mr Coe (Strzelecki) also had slides accepted.

Because Photoflora is essentially a Photographic competition the standard of the work entered was of a very high standard. A selection of Approximately 100 slides will be formed into a "Miniphptoflora" which is available for clubs to hire at a small charge. L.V.F.N.C. screened 1976 Miniphotoflora at their annual meeting, and it was enjoyed by all present. We are looking to the time when we will be able to have Miniphotoflora 78.

The next Photoflora is expected to be in 1980.

Any information regarding photoflora should be directed to

NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
3 ALLFREY STREET , EAST BRIGHTON 3187.

EXCURSION TO WRECK BEACH 29/4/78

In perfect summer weather ten cars were winding their way from Leongatha in a westerly direction under the leadership of Mr and Mrs Brewster. We passed the bluestone quarry north of the highway at Ruby and the old mullock heaps and mining area near Ritchie Park and Coal Creek Historical Park at Korumburra.
The road from Korumburra followed the ridges of the Strzelecki Rangesto the first stop between Jumbunna and Kongwak where a look-out had been built at the roadside. Unfortunately it was not clear in the distance, otherwise we would have seen Wilson's Promontory Cape Liptrap, Anderson's Inlet, Wonthaggi and Westernport Bay.
We were able to observe two wedgetail eagles as they soared along with the winds. Crossing the Powlett River flats we reached via Wonthaggi a track to our parking spot near the sand dunes at Wreck Beach. An historical monument commemorates the discovery of coal by Captain Thomas Hovell, accompanied by William Woods, William Hughes and John Sennet in December 1826.

Our morning walk was through the sand dunes to Wreck Beach where Mrs Brewster showed some of the Interesting geological features of the tidal rockshelf.We had a plain view of a basalt dyke about one foot wide which has forced its way through an almost vertical layer of shale and sandstones. The dyke had later been faulted at right angles, causing it to "Zig zag".

On the rock platform were many portions of the wreck from the ship "Artisan" visible. This ship foundered in 1902 fortunately without loss of life. On this perfect autumn day the sea looked still angry as it smashed against the rocks but how would it be on a really stormy day?

A single Pacific Gull was seen here and some little pied cormorants. The birdo's discovered a group of Australian Gannets fishing further from the coast, but good binoculars were needed to see them. On the sandy stretches of beach were red-capped dotterel, the hooded dotterel and sooty oystercatcher. We then adjourned to the cars for lunch.

After lunch we ventured through the sanddunes in a westerly direction. We noticed New Holland honeyeaters, little wattle-bird, grey thrush and a nankeen kestrel. In the sand dunes we found "middens", these are places where the aboriginals prepared and cooked their food. They consist of deposits of shells and (or) animal bones sometimes mixed with charcoal fragments.The shells here were limpets, abalonie and the green subninella shells.
The middens have been covered by sand dunes for long periods and through shifting sands are exposed again. Flints were found, also small pieces ofrock and some bones.
On the beach enormous amounts of kelp had been washed up.
The going was heavy when the tide came in but everyone seemed to enjoy it. Mr and Mrs Brewster were thanked for their leadership.

contd..pp6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 18th 1978

Some programme alterations were notified. Mrs Lyndon to be the speaker in May and Mr Suckling to be the speaker in June.

The Proposed recommendations for the Alpine Area had been received. Most members felt happy about the recommendations. Written Submissions re the Proposed Recommendations should be sent to the Land Conservation Council 464 St Kilda Road , Melbourne . 3004 Victoria.
All submissions must reach the Secretary no later than Monday June 12th 1978.

INformation received about ENVIRONMENTAL DAY June 5th, requested clubs and individuals to involve themselves in some projects to do with the subject. Watch papers , tv, radio for further information.

Information supplied re Plants in area concerned with Saline Waste water Outfall Pipeline from Loy Yang Project.

Transcripts of evidence Emergency Gas Turbine Inquiry.

National Estate Programme Guidelines. C.C.V. Annual Meeting Minutes and Reports received.
All these documents available for members to look at if they wish.

Supper Roster 26th May Mr and Mrs Sterkenburg.

Next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday May 23rd at the home of Mrs L Padfield 99 Chamberlain Rd, Newborough at 7.30 pm.

WRECK BEACH *contd..*

It was then that Mrs Brewster mentioned that east of Inverloch some AutumnGreenhoods were flowering and were any of us interested in seeing them. Well, of course, everyone was interested in seeing a rare orchid like that. So the whole procession followed the leaders past Inverloch proper, where , on private property several greenhoods were found, much admired and much photographed.

From here everyone went his own way. It was late when we finally arrived home, but an interesting day, in such pleasant company and in such beautiful country is never TOO LONG.

B&M STERKENBURG.

At the April meeting of L.V.F.N.C. MEMBERS were able to wish Miss Jean Galbraith a pleasant trip overseas. Miss G. leaves on May 19th for some weeks travelling England, Europe etc. We wish her good health and a very happy journey and look forward to hearing all about it when she returns.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer — Mr C.Lester, 61 Strzelecki Rd. YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 — Family $4.50 — Single Member $4.00

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JUNE, 1978

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday June16th Mr John Kent "Bush Walking"
EXCURSION	Sunday June 18th Contact secretary for details

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday June 23rd Mr G.Suckling "Mammals"
EXCURSION:	Saturday June 24th to the Willung area.
MEETING PLACE	GORMANDALE AT 4.30 PM for an evening of spotlighting.

Bring barbeque tea if you wish.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday July 7th Gippsland Lakes Environment Dr Pauline Ladiges.
EXCURSION:	Lakes area, to be arranged Contact Secretary for details.

VICTORIAN F.N.C.ASSOCIATION LABOR DAY WEEKEND GET TOGETHER

CRESWICK, the venue of this annual event was a happy and interesting as usual in spite of the variations in the weather.

On the hot Saturday afternoon, we visited Mr Alan Sonsee's arboreteum specialising in native plants and conifers; followed by a short tour giving a good view of the numerous alluvial mine sites to the north of Creswick, which actua-ly trace out the courses of the two arms of the ancient river beds followed by the mines 100 to 500feet below the present land surface, by the enormous heaps of material each taken out of individual mines. Most of it came from the shafts and drives put in to get at the relatively small amount of wash where the gold was concentrated in the 2or 3 feet of river bed.

These rivers, having brought down a tremendous amount of quartz, gold and much other material from the now almost non-existent mountains to the south, were in turn buried by lava flows through which the mines had to be sunk to get to the Ordivician rock of the old land surface and the richest alluvial deep leads in the world.

In the evening, the annual meeting was followed by a talk by our President Albert Perry giving the history of the Deep Lead Mines.

On sunday morning, we met at the Quartz-crushing Battery which was rescued from destruction at the last moment by the local Shire Council and is operated on Sunday mornings by three or four faithful enthusiasts for visitors to see one of these mechanical devices in actual operation. The stampers first crush the rock fed into it which is then carried by a water flow to the roller coated with mercury ,having a great attraction for gold. Later on the gold and its loaded mercury are scraped off, the latter being "boiled" out of the mixture and almost totally recovered leaving the native gold to be separated from the other components---- this gold being always a mixture containing platinum, silver,lead, and many other minerals. By the characteristics of the mixture, the location from which any sample of native gold has come can be determined.

On our way then to Slaty Creek Picnic Ground past the Forest Commission's nursery, we saw one of Victoria's 43 super pine trees chosen for special propogation by cuttings shot down by rifle, a beautiful specimen.

After lunch, on a walk among the local vegetation and bird-life, we saw the regeneration of the impressive gulches left by the sluicing of what had been mere gullies and side gullies from the era of that phase of the hunt for treasure.
Where all that material went to one can only surmise, but today's conservation awareness working at preventing our waterways being fouled by such activities" aint seen nothing" like it!
During the afternoon in a period of rain, unfortunately, an experienced member of the Geelong Club, Leila Ramsay, slipped and injured an ankle.

contd....pp 2

VICTORIAN F.N.C.A. WEEKEND contd..

Sunday evening session was devoted to "Club discussions on activities " when several representatives gave interesting reports indicating what has been and is happening in various places, or spoke on topics of general interest.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the discussion was the Mid-murray Club's project of determining a rational and sustainable' conservation policy by conservationists. Mr Alex Fisher who explained the problem, cited the case of Kangaroos which have bred up in favorable conditions in Western N.S,W.,and are driven south by drought across the Murray. The farmers suffer great damage to their crops and cannot just sit and watch more and more 'roos eat much and trample more of their source of income needed to cover the costs of that crop and perhaps the failure of others, into the ground.

This goes much further, both with Kangaroos in National Parks such as Wperfeld, and other animals anywhere their protection unbalances natural restraints and results in great increases in numbers to the extent that they come up against the limits of their food supply,or are forced to attack the basis of human or other vulnerable species of life.

This is the project for which contributions of thought from all people with experience, knowledge, and ideas on the various aspects are requested to be sent to the Mid-Murray Trust, and also in the discussions it was agreed, in order that the matter will be properly handled to attain its objective of formulating a generally acceptable statement of policy for conservation as defined above, communication back and forth is essential.

It is a formidable task, but it is in keeping with the reputation of this body which has already been awarded a Victorian Conservation P ize.

On Monday morning we visited the Forest Commission's nursery where they grow countless thousands of trees for distribution to F.C.V.forestry projects and the general public of WEstern Victoria. The visit included explanations of their propogation methods with demonstrations,The weekend concluded before lunchtime in the grounds of the Creswick School of Forestry and a look at their Park's trees and shrubs.

Because of the need to be able to meet the unpredictable weather conditions, the success of the weekend was a tribute to our President Albert Perry's team management ability which could best be described admiringly as " flexible precision", a factor becoming more essential as the size of excursions increases amidst the growing numbers of people using the roads.

N.Brooks
L.V.F.N.C. representative

KING ISLAND.

The first recorded sighting of King Island was in 1797 by Captain Campbell in the brig "Deptford" and the island was named in 1801 by Captain Black. In March 1802 Captain Campbell of the brig "Harrington" on a sealing voyage made the first recorded landing. Later the same year Lieutenant Murray of the brid "Lady Nelson" named Sea Elephant Bay after the seals he estimated to number 6,000.

The first permanent settlers who operated on the islandwere sealers. In 1803 these sealers brought native women who had to crawl among the seals and club them to death. There were on aboriginal inhabitants of the island. During the days of the sealers and whalers the islands evil reputation grew with the numbers of wrecks on the island,fights among the sealers, disappearances without record. The islands shores have seen many wrecks as it stands at the western entrance to Bass Strait with the Strait's deepest waters to the north towards Victoria and with numerous shallow reefs to the south towards Tasmania. After the Cape Wickham light was built in 1861 at the north of the island still more wrecks occured when this light was mistaken for the one on Cape Otway and the ships steered south. IN many places around the island are named and un-named graves for the victims of wrecks.

In 1850 a yearly lease was taken for the island but this venturefailed when Darling Pea (Swainsonia lassertifolia)caused fatal blindness and madness in all stock on the coastal dunes. The same disaster was experienced by the lessees of 1885 who leased the whole island for 300 pounds per annum. When cattle were later introduced for grazing the stock disease "coastiness" also caused disaster until it was accidently discovered that if cattle were transferred inland for part of the year they were cured.

Present day land use is for sheep, dairying and beef cattle. Scheelite is mined at Grassy on the east coast where there is a man made harbour for freight. There has been some tin mining, some gold mining, and recently the rutile mine near Narracoopa on the Eastcoast closed down. Some beef cattle are shipped away from Grassy but many carcasses leave from the abbatoirs adjacent to the airport.Cray fishing and Abalone fishing occupy many inhabitants. These two products of the island's waters are flown out daily by small freight planes. Another harvest of the sea is the kelp industry which dries and processes the huge strands of Bull Kelp which grows profusely around the shores. Afterthe kelp has been through a hammer mill the small hard pellets are bagged and sent to Scotland to be used for alginates.A by-product is the kelp dust which is also bagged and sold as garden fertilizer. The development of this industry has been of great economic help to the local population as many of the licence holders for kelp harvesting are farmers who have suffered during the recent rural recession.

contd.... pp 4

KING ISLAND contd..

Much of the island is still covered by impenetrable thickets of Ti-tree. In the south-east where there were once huge Blue Gum forests are now cleared paddocks with occasional huge stumps to show where these trees once grew. Also on this south-east side of the island are some surprisingly deep and rugged fern gullies which have not been cleared. There are also heathland areas with many of the wildflowers similar to those in South gippsland and there are innumerable lagoons,peat swamps and peaty soils. Many of the cleared paddocks are bordered by hedges of South African Boxthorn.

Other introductions have been Pheasants(there is a short open season for Pheasant shooting), Californian Quail, Magpies, Kookaburras (which did not flourish) and Peacocks which roam wild in the sand dunes. As there are no foxes or rabbits on the island flocks of domestic poultry wander at will with no need to be penned unless for protection from wild dogs. These are more bother to sheep farmers. Brush-tailed POssums and Wallabies both reach pest Proportion at times and landholders can secure permits to destroy them when damage is being done to gardens and pastures.

Early in its history the Victorian Field Naturalists'Club had an excursion to King Island in the 1880's when all transport to the island was by boat. Nowadays all passenger transport to and from the island is by plane. It was in this manner that the Victorian Club visited King Island in 1972 when the members of the King Island Field Naturalists'Club showed them around the island! This Club has a comprehensive Plant List for the island and one of its members has helped produce a booklet on the island's birds. There is a small booklet available on the wrecks of the island and several histories (all now out of print) have been written on this fascinating Tasmanian island.

E.P.Brewster

This was the content of the talk by Mrs Brewster to the L.V.F.N.C. on Friday April 28th. Mrs Brewster does not mention the slides which were shown by Mr Brewster to illustrate this most interesting evening. We are grateful for their interest in King Island and for the work in compiling the talk and pictures. Ed.

Peninsula F.N.C.Campout Group Schedule 1978

July 22-23	Kinglake area	August 19-20	Murrundindi River
September 16-17	Bear Gully (Cape LIptrap)		
October 21-22	Chinaman Island		
November 18-19	Bunyip State Forest		
December 26	Christmas camp (to be decided)		

Meeting at 10 am for these camps. Full details from Mr Archer or contact Secretary L.V.F.N.C.who has more detailed information about this group.

It has been pointed out that users of COLLINS FIELD GUIDE to the WILDFLOWERS OF S.E.AUSTRALIA, who have not read the preface where the beautiful drawings were acknowledged as the work of our own member, Mrs Jakobson, may not know that Camilla Jakobson was responsible for all the art work in the book.

Through a regrettable omission for which I am sorry to say I was inadvertantly responsible, Mrs Jakobson's name was left out of the credits on pp 7.

It will be on the title page if there is another edition. In the meantime those many members who know the artist are proud of Mrs Jakobson who, though no longer in Yallourn, is still a member of our club.

Jean Galbraith.

REPORT ON TALK EUCALYPTS by Mr Reid 25/11/77

Members saw many fine slides of eucalypts during Mr Reid's very interesting and informative talk at the November meeting. In his introduction Mr Reid explained that there 532 species (plus a few recent additions) in the list of eucalypts by Chippendale and Pryor. All these except one species grow on the Australian mainland. The one non Australian species and 6 or 7 of the Australian species grow on some of the Northern islands, as far north as the Phillipines. There are no eucalypts in New Zealand.

We have 90 species in Victoria but the talk was confined to central Gippsland species, from the south coast to Omeo in the north. The tallest hardwood tree in the world was a Victorian Mountain Ash, (E.regnans) but all the largest trees have been destroyed now.The largest surviving is in Tasmania. It is 327 ft high, 20 ft shorter than the worlds tallest tree, a Californian Redwood, which is a softwood.

Eucalypts, especially Blue Gums are widely planted in other countries where they grow so well that the volume of timber from them is five times as great as comes from them in Australia.

The first slides shown illustrated the parts of eucalypts which one must examine when trying to identify them. Although one classification depends on the shape of the minute anthers in the flowers, eucalypt flowers are not very important for identification, but buds, fruits, bark and juvenile and mature leaves are all important. A good general (but not invariably reliable) guide is the bark. One can separate them into species with box bark(close scaly fibrous), stringy bark (very long strands like teased rope), ironbark (extremely hard and fissured) peppermint (short grained stringy with more or less lattice-like interweaving) and gum bark (smooth, deciduous, except sometimes at the base of the trunk).

BUDS may be stalked or sessile (stalkless) and vary from globular (cup and cap equally hemispherical) to long-pointed (cap like a tall cone)

contd.... pp6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 23rd 1978

Decided that we should purchase a supply of paper cups for the supper at each meeting.

Peninsula Field Naturalists'Club Campout Group ha ve sent details of their activities for this year. Weekend camps are held each month . All persons attending to be completely self contained, and are asked to contact the Secretary Frank Archer 783 9518 A.H. for details of the camps. Dates published page 4.

Publications received Environs, ECOS,
North East NAturalist (Tasmania) Geelong Naturalist.
Transcript of Evidence given May 10th at the Public Works Committee Emergency Gas Turbine Inquiry.

Submissions .

Waters of Latrobe River Catchment.
L.C.C. re Proposed Recommendations Alpine Area.

Moved that we have a vote of thanks to Mrs Thompson for her work as Conservation Co-ordinator for the Club. Much time is spent in research for and writing these submissions on our behalf.

Arrangements for June excursion received from Mr Suckling.

Supper Roster June 23rd Mrs Padfield and helper

Next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 20th at the home of Mr and Mrs McElroy 35 Latrobe Road Morwell at 7.30pm.

TALK ON EUCALYPTS *contd...*

FRUITS may be large or small with valves (the small points which lift to release the seeds) strongly exserted above the rim or deeply enclosed; the rim may slant inward or outward, varying from 1/4 in. wide to as narrow as a thread.
Buds and fruits may be clustered in 3s,5s, or 7s or an indefinite number. Most Eucalypts have juvenile leaves differing from their mature leaves. The mature leaves are commonly alternate (although the related genus ANGOPHORA has opposite leaves) while juvenile leaves are opposite - that is growing in pairs, each two leaves springing from the same level but on opposite sides.

It is impossible to describe the wonderful series of slides that we were shown. Usually and most helpfully, Mr Reidfirst showed a of the whole tree, illustrating its characteristic shape and bark, then, against a background of the bark, a photograph showing buds,fruits and leaves.

In cases where related species are much alike we were shown specimens of 2 to 4 species on one slide, illustrating the parts which differed, with the name shown clearly under each species.

continued in July issue.

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting:	Friday July 21st Mr Dick Briggs Illustrated talk North Island of New Zealand.
Excursion:	Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:	Friday July 28th Pro fessor Turner "L.C.C."
Excursion:	Saturday July 29th to Morwell National Park.
Meeting Place:	Lions Club Rest area on Princes Highway East of Morwell at 10.00 am.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Meeting	Friday August 4th Mr Dan McInnes "The Microscope"
Excursion	Contact Secretary for details.

BOURKE TO CUNNAMULLA.

Travelling from Bourke to Cunnamulla in May shortly after two periods of rain provided quite a variety of birds.

At the outskirts of Bourke, Black Kites were soaring and turning with their forked tails showing. A short distance north were two highlights, firstly 20 beautiful Major Mitchell's cockatoo, some perched, some on the ground, and then a little later 25 Pelican wheeled overhead in effortless flight.

At water close to the road were Yellow-billed spoonbill, White ibis and White-faced heron.Here and there Pied butcher-birds in flight or on telephone wires. Flying in and out of trees were Yellow throated miners, several Crested pigeons on the ground and a flock of eight Red-tailed Black cockatoos. We saw one group of 10 Apostle birds run ning on the ground, and another group feeding and perched together like a rugby scrum.

40 Km north of Bourke four Mallee ringneck parrots flew close by the car, and 10 Km further on three Mulga parrots.

A number of Black-backed magpie were seen between towns, and now and then Magpie lark and Spur-winged plover. There were numerous Galah, sometimes in noisy flight but mostly in groups of 50 to 100 feeding on the ground.

It was a pleasure during our morning coffee break to have five of our old friend Jacky winter in bushes on the edge of the road.

We saw a total of 35 Emu mostly in small groups but including one flock of 20 about 90 Km south of Cujnamulla. We noticed five Nankeen kestrel, each one in flight, one little falcon perched in a dead tree and one Grey falcon. It was exciting to see two Brolga close to the road 80 Km south of Cunnamulla as we had not seen them as far south before, although they have been observed fairly recently in south west Victoria.

The last 50 Km of the road to Cunnamulla has only one single lane seal and the shoulders were soft after rain.
Controlling the car and caravan took first priority and birds a second place. However we did see a flock of 100 Little corella also close to Cunnamulla, ans several groups of Black kite over the outskirts.

KEITH BLACK.

TALK ON EUCALYPTS contd...

Thus we saw the dumpy rather abruptly pointed buds of River Red-Gum, and the gradually tapering buds usually characteristic of Forest Red Gum, and on another slide the graduated sizes of fruits from the very small ones of E.yarraensis(a rare species which grows south of Morwell), through the medium sized fruits of E.ovata to the larger E.camphora, all similar in shape, though there are leaf distinctions.

Having illustrated the Blue Gums (E.globulus) with solitary 4 ribbed buds, Gippsland Blue Gum (E.pseudo-globulus)with stalked 2 ribbed buds, usually in 3s, E.st-johnii with 2 ribbed sessile buds, and E.maidenii with very much smaller buds in clusters of up to 7 - now usually considered varieties of E.globulus Mr Reid showed us the very varied forms of Manna Gum, and then moved on through our other Gippsland gums. We saw Candlebark with its vivid red trunks in summer, and its round juvenile leaves (as distinct from the lance-shaped leaves of Manna Gum); tall Kindling Gum with usually wavy-edged leaves; Brittle Gum with chalk-white trunks marbled with grey; Snow Gums with its almost parallel-veined leaves, Black Sallee with similar veining but buds in star-like clusters, and the rare E.kybeanensis - Mallee Ash with thick much narrower leaves.

While gums were being discussed we saw also the lowland(and usually taller) form of Snow Gum, including one of the specimens growing naturally on the roadside near the Arboreteum and the plantation of seedlings from them, now well established trees planted by our president of some years ago ,Dr Ken Eldridge.

After the gums we saw box trees, Red Box, Fuzzy Box, similar but with more narrowed fruits, White Box with its whitish green l leaves; Grey Box at Yarram, the rather spreading scraggy, but not tall Long-leaf Box, with buds on flattened stalks, and Scent-bark, which is common on sandy soils.

Peppermints came next , with thin willowy leaves, narrow in E.radiata somewhat bluish and broader in Blue Peppermint and rather similar in E.nitida which, however, has a bluish bloom on the buds. Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash came next, the latter with a characteristic "stocking" of fibrous bark reaching halfway up tothe branches showing its relationship to the peppermints.

Stringybarks were the next group discussed, beginning with Messmate which has unequal leaves, the blade reaching the stalk noticably lower on one side than the other.

We saw Brown Stringybark with large fruits, broad rimmed and flat-topped in dense clusters amongst its thick leaves, Red Stringy with hanging branchlets and equally large broad-rimmed fruits but with pointed much exsert valves. There was also crooked Prickly Stringy like a scraggy Silvertop;

TALK ON EUCALYPTS contd...

Silvertop with its long veined leaves. E.cephalocarpa with silvery blue young leaves and Silver-leaf Stringy which keeps its silver juvenile type leaves to maturity and has buds in threes.

After those came a varied series, Red Ironbark with its hard black fissured bark and relatively large, often pink, flowers; Mahogany Gum with numerous veins spreading nearly at right angles to the mid-rib and finally one or two rare species; Spotted Gum, known from only one place in Victoria, curious with bark curling off in small pieces like bits of brown paper, Spinning-top Gum which has silvery young leaves, joined at the bases, forming a complete circle round the twig, and sometimes breaking free and spinninground and round it, E.chapmanniana with its hard cinnamon coloured bark on the trunk and its white branches. Its fruits suggest, but are very much larger than, those of E.viminalis.

Tingaringi Gum grows as a dwarfed Mallee tree on Mt Tingaringy, but is a tall straight tree in the Baw Baws; Gippsland Mallee is dwarf and bushy with thick leaves tough enough to stand the salt-laden winds of the coastal habitat, and Omeo Gum is rather scrubby with roundish leaves.

Finally , as a colourful end to a memorable evening, we saw slides of some spectacular eucalypts, native to other parts of Australia, which have been planted in Gippsland and are thriving here -the Rose-of-the West with giant pink flowers, glowing E.ficifolia, familiar to us as a street tree in Drouin, and pink, white and red flowered White Ironbark.

Mr Reid had a very appreciative audience indeed.

Jean Galbraith.

TREE SPARROWS

Recently while walking to school I saw a Tree Sparrow for the first time in Morwell. Previoisly I had only seen them in Maffra. At first glance the Tree Sparrow is easily mistaken for its close cousin the House Sparrow.However in the Tree Sparrow the sexes are similar and they have a chestnut crown and no cheek spots, and the female is a dull uniform brown.
The Tree Sparrow's call also differs from the House Sparrows. Unfortunately not having a good ear for bird calls I cannot adequatelly describe it. I will merely note that it does not chirplike its common cousin.

The Tree Sparrow feeds mainly on seeds and fruits from introduced trees, it does not seem to be as adaptable as the House Sparrow which thrives ib all towns and cities along the east coast.

Has anyone else seen the Tree Sparrow in the Latrobe Valley? or further afield?.

Barry Traill.

TALK ON FUNGI IN MAY.

People who like to walk in the bush at this time of the year cannot fail to be interested in the many beautiful kinds of toadstools that abound in such places. They give such colour and life to the sembre greens and browns of the winter bushland.

Often the excursionists are interested from the photographic angle and it is not common to see respectable Field Nats cast them selvesfull length on the soggy leech infested earth to get good shots of some insignificant fungus. When their slides come back they need to know what it is they have captured on film. Others simply ask " Is it good to eat ?" and this is sometimes a difficult question to answer. One man's meat may be another man's poison and what one may eat and enjoy might make another slightly ill,for some people suffer allergies to certain food, as with the yellow staining mushroom that figured largely in the news lately. Again, many of our native fingi are harmless and may be eaten quite safely but they may not be very tasty to our palates.

There are plenty of overseas handbooks, as colorful as the fungi they depict, coming on to our city bookstalls, most of the good ones containing keys to the fungi, if the reader has absorbed sufficient knowledge to follow them.
The F.N.C.V. Handbook is still the only reference we have to the native fungi and Dr Willis has included a key in that. Some of the names may be superseded because considerable revision is taking place in this field. This makes positive identification difficult for us as amateurs. Even visiting specialists roaming our bush for the first time are a little cagey about committing themselves in the naming.

AS we become more familiar with our mushrooms and toadstools undoubtedly more common names will be invented. the most ardent seeker after knowledge wilts a bit when confronted with "Clitocybe infundibuliformis" or"Chlorosplenium aeruginosum"! But he brightens visibly if the leader can say " Oh, thats a beef-steak "or a "Pressure pak" or even a "Horsedung Fungus". Once a student begins to delveinto the realms of the fungus, what ever his reasons, he will find it an absorbing study. Some folk are still a little afraid of handling the brightly colored fungi, old superstitions die hard. However, even the beautiful red Amanita muscaria wont bite you if you dont bite it.

Botanically speaking, the mushroom stem is properly called a stipe. It has none of the functions of the stem of a green plant, where there is two-way traffic all the time of food and water to leaves and roots. It is more like the handle of an umbrella and its job is to liftthe cap or pileus high enough to allow proper dispersal of the windborne spores. The fine white threads that adhere to the bottom of the stipe sometimes are actually part of the main body of the fungus, the underground mycelium. They are not roots.

contd...

TALK ON FUNGI IN MAY. contd...

This mycelium is formed by the meeting togrther in a mass of fine threads, called hyphae. In some cases the mycelial threads become very thick and root-like, when they are known as rhizomorphs. The Honey Fungus has developed a good example of this form. Its rhizomorphs are provided with a hard shiny cover and they are able to push off in any direction when the food supply runs short,in a search for the roots of living or dead trees. It can be a serious pest like the Cinnamon Fungus and pine farmers dont appreciate its beautiful fruiting body.

Color of the spores is another feature that helps to determine the identity of a toadstool. Everyone at some time or other must have taken a spore print on a piece of white paper, or black as the case may be.The Cortinars produce some of our most gloriously colorful species, deep purples and violets, greens and scarlets and rich chestnut browns. Some are very sticky and are covered with a thick shiny gluten. But always the tell tale rusty tan spores pepper the stipe. Australia has some beautiful Boleti , too, with pores below instead of gills, exhibiting very rich colours. Not much seems to have been done on Australian varieties, but we probably have most of those pictured in the European books.

It is much easier to learn about mushrooms and toadstools if you can study them in the field and handle them, and perhaps take some of the difficilt ones home for further study, so bring along a basket and a knife and some plastic bags when next you have the opportunity for a walk in the bush.

E.Lyndon

The funeral of the late Ray Telford on Saturday 3rd June was attended by several members of the Warragul F.N.C.

The club extends its sympathy to his widow and family. During his retirement from farming, Ray pursued the study of native plants and birds. In fact he spent many hours after finding a new plant ,keying out the specimen with the aid of the good books and a magnifying glass until he had the right answer.

In spite of his neighbours views," if you see a tree, chop it down" Ray insisted upon retaining the native vegetation along the creek which ran through the farm.

He found this paid dividends over the years, as the trees acted as a shelter belt in the winter, and shade for the cattle in summer.

In his retirement he was able to spend many hours bird-watching in his own back yard.

N.Brooks.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 20th 1978.

Decided that we would support the display by South Gippsland Conservation Society at the Daffodil Festival Leongatha from 29th August to September 2nd.

Publications received C.C.V. Newsletter
Environs.

Proffessor Turner would be speaking at July meeting.

EAST GIPPSLAND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS. There is some dismay at the Lind National Park having its name changed to Euchre Creek Scenic Reserve. Also the size has been drastically reduced. Bairnsdale F.N.C. will be contacted about action to be taken.

Supper Roster July 28th ? ? ?

Next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th July at the home of Mr and Mrs Lubcke 122a Helen street Morwell at 7.30 pm.

It is with sad hearts that we record the death of our friend Mr R.N.Auchterlonie at Narracan on June 23rd.

Bob Auchterlonie was a foundation member of L.V.F.N.C. and was also an Honorary Life Member. He was a lover of natural things the Eucalypts being a special interest. In the garden of the Auchterlonie home are many Australian plants which shows the deep sense of feeling for these things.

He was a keen photographer and entered in the Photoflora competitions and had many slides accepted for showing. The Hazelwood Arboreteum was another interest , he was one of the most energetic workers at working bees, being the supplier of many plants which he had grown himself from seed.

Mr Auchterlonie was so interested in "The Naturalist" magazine that he provided the duplicator and typewriter to keep the publication going.

Until recently Mr Auchterlonie and Miss Auchterlonie were regular attenders at our excursions,their knowledge was always sought after and given readily.

We have lost a true friend and gentleman in Mr Bob Auchterlonie We extend our sympathy to Miss Grace and other members of the family.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer Mr C.Lester
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YALLOURN 3838.

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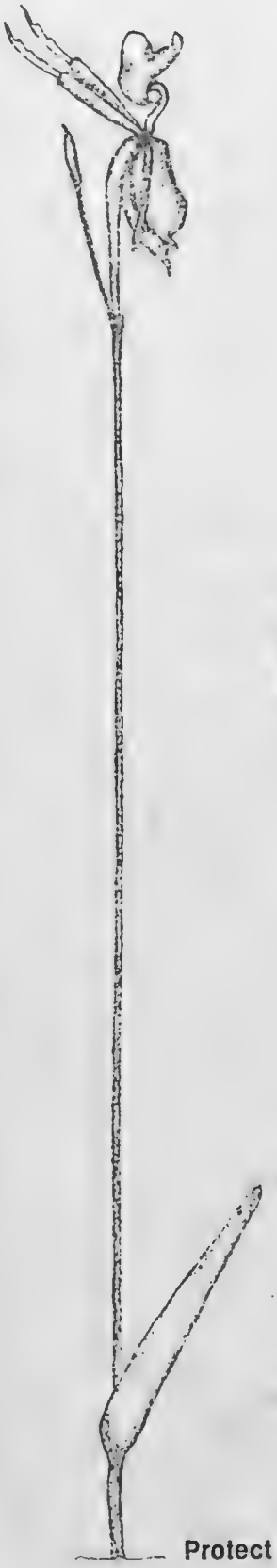

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING — Friday August 18th.
Allison Teese will give an illustrated talk on South America.

EXCURSION — Sunday August 20th.
Contact Secretary for details

The Warragul F.N.C. is organising an excursion to Churchill Island, near Cowes, on Sunday September 17th. Meeting Place Information Centre on Phillip Island at 10.30 a.m. Members of the L.V.F.N.C. are invited to join this excursion.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING — Friday August 25th
Mr. W. Cane
"Propagating Native Plants"

EXCURSION — Saturday August 26th. to Solvent Track, beyond Stockdale.

MEETING PLACE — Outside McAllister Hotel, Maffra at 10.00 a.m.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING — Friday, September 15th.
Mr. Tom Fawcett "Banksias"

EXCURSION — Banksias - Property Longford.
Contact Secretary for details.

SUMMER SPIDERS.

January and February could well be called the months of the Spiders, when every park and garden is festooned with a variety of intricate webs bearing often colorful owners. Most plentiful here are the Leaf-curlers, who back hastily into their "garages" before we can see the pretty pattern on their backs. The Enamelled Spider is larger and less shy. The curious Tailed Spiders, camouflaged by their long and unlikely shape and non-descript color, hang in full view below the string of bundles that might be egg-sacs or last weeks menu. The heathlands are all agleam with the webs of the Jewel Spiders in many colors.

This year I have some new friends living in my silver-black wattle hybrid. It is the Turret Spider, (Dolophones), just a small creature, wonderfully camouflaged to resemble, if not a bump on a log, then a leaf node on a wattle tree. These little spiders are flat-bodied and rather crab-like. They clasp the branch sideways so that their toe tips touch on the underside. It is the female only that carries the turret or chimney, quite a large protuberance rising from the top of the abdomen, which makes her look more than ever like a node or a twig butt. The egg sacs are easier to locate than the spiders. Turn up the small branches and look for small dark blobs of silk speckled with yellow. Then "cold search" as the birdos say, for the owners. They will not be far away. One morning I found the pair not far apart, each dining on a leaf hopper. They are so far only found on this one wattle tree.

Ellen Lyndon.

A useful spider book is Densey Clyne's Guide to Australian Spiders.

FUN FINDING FUNGI.

Eight cars assembled at Gunn's Gully and headed off alongOld Sale Road, this road was once the Main Road, used between Sale= and Melbourne, then along Telegraph Road. We stopped along the way and Mrs. McElroy found the first Fungi for the day..Leptonia the fairy parasol which was growing under E. Messmate together with Indigo, Veronica, Goodenia and two Pterostylis longifolia IN BUD.

We hurried along to meet our Warragul friends at the Crossroads and then continued on, passing a signpost MIZPAH SETTLEMENT RD. which fascinated me. I later learned that MIZPAH is a Hebrew word meaning MAY THE LORD WATCH BETWEEN ME & THEE WHEN WE ARE APART. This is a word that was in "Fashion" years ago and engraved on watches, lockets etc. when loved ones

FUN FINDING FUNGI Cont.

were leaving their native land to settle overseas etc. Mr. Briggs of the W.F.N.C. informed me that the MIZPAH settlement was planned because of the economic depression in the 1890's when many people were out of work. To encourage people out of Melbourne the Government of the day offered 50 acres of land plus 1.00 (one pound) per week, many of these unemployed were migrants and willingly took up these selections. However, the soil was very poor and the blocks too small, wombats too numerous (no rabbits at that time) and they were wiped out by bush fires. For all their hard work they had little hope of success and neighbours sold out to neighbours leaving the area with only 2-3 farmers who could prosper on the bigger blocks. It is interesting to note that Jindavic (near Drouin) was settled in the same way but the richer soil enabled settlers to make a go of it.

We finally stopped at Crossover Railway Bridge. This line once went to the old town of Noojee however the line was closed about 20 years ago but the bridge spans the deepest cutting that Vic Rail had made.

We strolled down the old track looking for fungi which we found to be plentiful.

Cortinarius (which means veil) were a species well represented
C.Austro-Venetus, a really beautiful shiny green cap with old gold gills. This Fungi a Photographer's delight
C.Castaneo-fulvus, a dark brown and with minutely toothed gills.
C.Violaceus, a pale violet cap, a bulbous stem (not a true stem BUT A STIPE)

Many Mycena pullata were found, these species are very delicate, translucent and very dainty.
Paxillus involutus with its decurved, forked gills and looking all gills and thin cap.
Craterellus multiflex, this pink-orange "set of Fungi" is lovely to see against a stump, tiered along a common stem and looking like a bunch of bleached leaves.
Russula Emetica (Greek meaning sickness) with its crisp white gills and purple or red caps. As the name implies has a reputation for making some people sick while other people can eat it with no ill effects..... I'd say that discretion is the better part of valour in this case!!!
Hygrophorus miniatus is a very small fungi (a pity it has such a long name) is very beautiful and rarely more than ½" in breadth, but eye catching for all that.

cont.....

TALK ON SUGAR GLIDERS BY MR. GRAEME SUCKLING

At the June general meeting we were priveleged to hear Mr. Graeme Suckling from Monash University talk to us on his study of the Sugar Glider (Petaurus breviceps), in the Gormondale area.

Mr. Suckling spoke first about the apparently unrelated subject of island bio-geography. This theory is that an isolated oceanic island can only support a certain number of species in relationto its size. It is believed this theory can also be applied to areas of bush isolated by cleared land. Mr. Suckling said that if 10% of the land was left in its natural state and 90% cleared it was probable that eventually, in several centuries or more, only 50% of the species originally present would survive.

For this reason Mr. Suckling is studying the populations and habits of the sugar glider in four small isolated patches of bush. The areas range in size from 1.5 hectares, to 50 hectares. The sugar glider is the most common mammal in these areas and up to 6 gliders to the hectare have been recorded.

Winter is a lean time for these small marsupials and much weight is lost at this time. Because of lack of food and bad weather conditions the sugar gliders often "hibernate" for short periods. During this time the gliders fall into a torpor and lower their body temperature.

Also during winter when their body weight is lowest the females start to produce young. This may be because the young will receive an ample supply of food when they leave the pouch. The young stay in the pouch until they are 10 weeks old and spend another 5 weeks in the nest before becoming independent.

With the help of an entomologist, Mr. Suckling found that the sugar gliders, previously thought to be mainly insectivorous, subsist in the winter mostly on the gum exuded from Acacias, and the sap from some Eucalypt species. Up to 90% of their food at this time is gum and the gliders will often cross open paddocks to reach wattle trees.

Sugar gliders are entirely nocturnal and they retreat in the day to hollows in dead or old trees. They live in small groups of 5 - 10 individuals and often defend feeding spots from other gliders.

Mr. Suckling finished his slides with a few shots of some of the other birds and mammals in the study area. He said that although cats and possible goannas and owls took large numbers of sugar gliders it did not appear to effect the population of this species.

cont.....

TALK ON SUGAR GLIDERS Cont.

After Mr. Suckling had answered several questions he was presented with a small gift by Mr. Lubcke in appreciation of his fine talk.

Barry Traill.

"SUGAR GLIDER" EXCURSION 24th. JUNE 1978.

Despite inclement weather, nine cars assembled at the roadside-strip study area near Willung where Mr. Graham Suckling was waiting for our arrival

Graham, as our guest speaker for the previous evening, had shown us many slides of this interesting area and explained the nature of his work there. This roadside strip consisting of only 4 hectares has a much higher density of Gliders - 10 per hectare - than the other study areas nearby. This appears to be related to the fact that this strip has quite a dense understory of Black Wattle (Acacia meansii) In winter the Gliders have been found to feed mainly on Acacia gum. They seem to love it, and in fact an analysis of their faeces showed that during winter about 90% is made up of excess gum. They are also seen feeding on the sap exudates of But-But, of Apple Box (E.bridgesiana). They go round and make little holes in the bark and lick up the sap.

Graham divided us into five groups and allocated each group to a nest tree, assuring us that the Sugar Gliders would come out to feed as it began to grow dark. Dusk was approaching so we settled down to wait.

The members of our group had been advised to station ourselves on the embankment on the side of the road directly opposite the tall dead nest-tree, for it was the habit of the Gliders to emerge about dusk and glide down to a neighbouring tree, then across the road to the Apple Box under which we were waiting. With expert showmanship Graham had assured us that we had the best tree. (I now suspect that he said that to all the groups)!!

It wasn't long before folding chairs were called for, and soon we were comfortably seated on the embankment under the Apple Box, clad in an assortment of woolies, raincoats, Sou' westers. gumboots and an old army blanket. Spotlights, torches and brollies were all at the ready. Looking in fact like a group of Field Naturalists, we sat like Royalty waiting for the Command Performance to begin.

We waited. We watched as the western sky, which had now cleared, turned rich and varied shades of salmon pink. The planet Venus appeared and hung like a solitary tiny moon in the sky behind the silhouetted dead nest-tree. Still we waited.

To be continued next month!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JULY 25th 1978

The Arthur Rylah Institute have requested information re the birds and mammals in this area. Any lists we have will be sent. Mrs Lyndon also to be contacted in this matter.
Any back copies of L.V.Naturalist have been forwarded to the institute as requested.

"AUSTRACK" Special Tour to Central Australia will be led by Dr.J.H.Willis, and leave on July 2nd 1979. Bookings may be made now from "Austrack" Special Tours, c/ Wayside Mail, Beaufort 3373. Duration of tour will be 14 days and should be very interesting.

C.C.V. Minutes of Annual Meeting received.

other publications received, Environs, Habitat, A.C.F.Newsletter
Vic.Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist

Discussion re the L.C.C. and submissions and recommendations but no definate ideas to present right now.

We were pleased to welcome back Miss Jean Galbraith from her trip. Mr W.Cane will lead excursion after September meeting , we await details of this.

Supper Roster August 25th Miss Galbraith & Miss Purbrick.

Next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday August 22nd at the home of Mr and Mrs Sterkenburg at 7.30 pm.

During the absence of the editor any articles for publication should be forwarded to Mrs J.Burns, 25 Canberra St. Moe 3825.
If sent to editor they will stay in Post Office until October 18th.

Mrs Inez Branson has recently been in hospital. Flowers were sent to her from the club and several members visited her.
Best wishes for a speedy return to good health from us all.
Congratulations to The Rowe Family in adding Christopher to the family on 9th July. We hope to meet him soon.

Barry Traill was the recipient of an award from the Gippsland Science Talent Search. His project was on Bird Populations.

Mrs Lyndon will give a tribute to our late member Mr R.N.Auchterlonie who died on June 23rd. This will be at the July meeting.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

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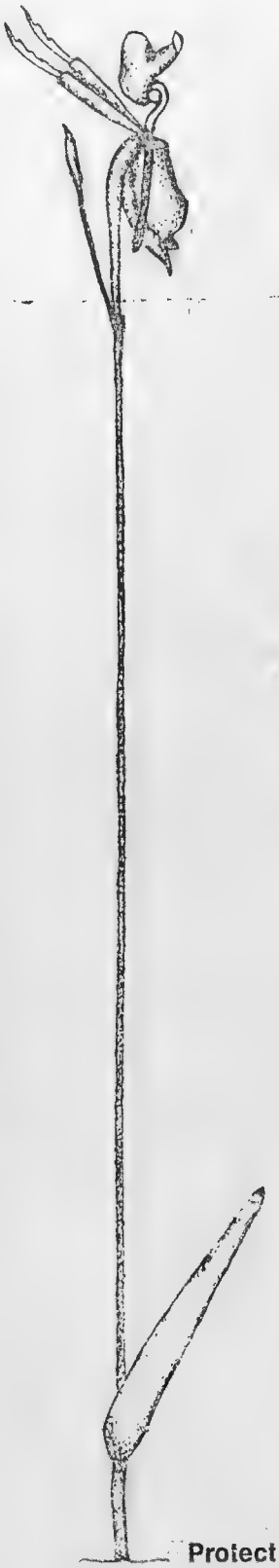

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COMING EVEN TS.

WARRAGUL F,N,C,

MEETING

Friday September 15th.
at 8 p.m. sharp.
Tom Weller will give an illustrated talk on birds.

EXCURSION

Churchill Island Meet at 10.30 a.m. at the Information Centre Phillip Island. See Page 6.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING

Friday Sept. 23rd.
Mr. Bart Sterkenburg
Trip to Western Australia.

EXCURSION

Saturday Sept.23rd. to Bear Gully
Meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Lyndon Park, Steel St. Leongatha. See page 6.

SPECIAL MEETING

October 6th, Friday.
Mr. W. Emmison will speak on "POLAR BIRDS" See page 6.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING

Friday October 6th.
Members Night.

EXCURSION

Wonthaggi - Coast Heathlands.

Contact Secretary for details.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR TRARALGON F.N.C. MONTHLY MEETINGS. ALL FUTURE MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD AT THE LATROBE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTRE BUILDING WHICH IS IN THE GROUNDS OF THE KOSCIUSKO PRIMARY SCHOOL.
THE BUILDINGS ENTRANCE IS FROM CATTERICK CRS.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT AUCHTERLONIE

Our valued friend, Bob Auchterlonie, was a foundation member of Latrobe Valley F.N.C., and a benefactor without whom we would have neither our duplicator nor our electric typewriter - both invaluable in the preparation of the Naturalist. That says a great deal - yet those material gifts were the least of those he gave the club. Not even the long hours of work - and often hard work - he put into the Arboretum for as long as he was able to do so, meant as much as the knowledge and friendship he shared freely with us.

He was a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria long before our own F.N.C. was born, a member of horticultural societies also, and incidentally a judge at many Gippsland shows. He had a wide knowledge - always readily shared - of native plants, but knew especially well two of the most difficult groups Eucalypts and grasses - and few people realist how hard it is to know either of these as well as he did.

He lived all his 82 years on the same Narracan property, carrying on, with his brother, the work begun by his father. Over the years they made the well cared for farm a place of beauty, and with his sister, Miss Grace Auchterlonie, he made a garden that was worth going far to see. He had a special interest in Waratahs and grew all the known species. In that garden there are many rare plants, and whether rare or common all are beautiful from the small species crocuses, winter aconites and gentians that flowered there to the flowers in the rose and iris gardens, the great variety of native species and the native and exotic trees.

Mr and Miss Auchterlonie's visits were always accompanied by flowers - carried carefully and unpacked lovingly. I remember their first visit to us, about 40 years ago, and the great bunch of garden grown wildflowers which they brought. On visits to Glenaveril - their home - there was always a warm welcome and exciting plants to see. However unexpectedly one went there was always likely to be a little "flower-show" in the kitchen bay window where perhaps a dozen bottles would each contain a single beautiful bloom of rose, or iris, or whatever was in season, which Bob had brought in from the garden.

We valued his articles in the Naturalist - not only those botanical articles like the Gippsland Eucalypts series, but delightful little stories of the Willie Wagtail who built in the garage - the Thrush which stole the butter - and the Scrub Wrens which frequented the kitchen.

Above all - as our president said paying his own tribute after Mrs Lyndon had spoken at the July meeting on behalf of us all, "He was a gentle man" - gentle with all things, always

with something interesting to show a visitor, whether it was flower or insect or bird, and though most people who grow vegetables do not like blackbirds I have seen him gently stroke the back of a blackbird sitting on its nest in the garden" he told us.

There is much else one could say of his 30 years as secretary and librarian of the Narracan Hall - of his expert photography - of the new form of orchid he discovered in Western Australia - but above all - he was our friend for whom we all had a deep regard and admiration.

Thirteen members of L.V.F.N.C. were at his funeral and by their presence and the flowers they brought tried to express their friendship for him and their deep sympathy for Miss Auchterlonie, who shared his life and interests over the years, and for other members of his family.

Jean Galbraith.

HARMONIOUS THRUSHES.

We have several thrushes which are not adverse to being fed. They eat cheese, beetles, moths, cockchafer grubs, termites (which they really enjoy) and wichety grubs which appear to be the favourite titbit. Of course they eat insects, including earwigs, which they catch themselves. We have seen them also feeding on a snail. But a curious observation is that we cannot persuade them to eat an earthworm. Neither have we seen them catch one themselves, no matter how plentiful they are. Why are worms so different from the other "meat" thrushes eat?

Bon Thompson.

MAGPIES

This year in the wind a baby Magpie was blown out of its nest. The parent birds did not pay any attention to it for the rest of the day. The baby did not make any noise that could be heard, so a nephew took it home to Traralgon and fed it for two days, by which time the baby was squawking, if not very loudly. He brought the baby back and put it where it fell and within a short time of the baby bird squawking the parents came down, fed it and took it back to the rest of the family that had by then left the nest. We did not expect the parents to take the bird back but it must have supplied the right signal.

Bon Thompson.

SUGAR GLIDER EXCURSION 24th JUNE 1978 cont.

The dark clouds came scudding back, completely covering the sky once more, and down came the steady rain. Yours truly waited no longer.....

I had barely reached the comfort of the car, muttering observations about the wisdom of Sugar Gliders who had more sense than to leave a snug home on a night like this, when there was a hail from the wielder of the spotlight. The Gliders had appeared.

We could see them moving about on the tree, but like the girl in the old music hall song whose "little wooden whistle wouldn't whistle" our "Wily Sugar Gliders wouldn't glide". However observers at some of the other nesting sites were able to watch these attractive creatures gliding from tree to tree, or occasionally landing on the ground.

Perhaps the capriciousness of at least one of the inhabitants of our tree was explained when Graham happened along as we had one of them held in the spotlight. "That's a female" he commented. "Y-ou will notice the light reflecting on the tag on her left ear. She is usually the first to come out".

Graham was thanked by our President, Mr. Bart Sterkenberg, and assured that despite the rain we had enjoyed a novel amd highly interesting excursion.

June Lubcke.

THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

An address by Emeritus Professor John Turner.

In 1967 the Victorian National Parks Association sponsored a survey by Miss Judith Frankenberg, which in 1971 resulted in the publication of the book "Nature Conservation in Victoria". Until that date the pressures for the setting aside of natural reserves (such as National Parks) came largely from individuals (including naturalists, some government surveyors, shire councillors and professional biologists); also from societies like the FNC Vic. and the VNPA. The somewhat meagre results are recorded in Junith's book.

Following the remarkable public controversy over the fate of the Little Desert, the Bolte Government set up a government agency - the L.C.C.- whose function was to advise the Government on the future use of the 35% of Victoria which was still unalienated Crown Land. (See Land Conservation Act, Feb.1971 and the account in Victorian Year Book 1976 p.48.)

Cont.....

L.C.C. Cont.

For some years before this time, decisions on the use of Crown Land were largely made on the advice of the "Land Use Advisory Council": this was a body chaired by the Head of the Soil Conservation Authority and with a limited membership of senior public servants. Its advice was based largely on the excellent reports on Victorian Land Systems produced by the officers of the S.C.A. There was no public input to its deliberations, its proceedings were not made public and its recommendations (if he agreed to them) were made through the then Minister for Lands. At the time of the Little Desert controversy the Minister's views did not meet with general approval and Sir Henry Bolte took a far-reaching initiative when he agreed to form a new Council - the L.C.C. - to examine Land Use of Crown Land. Members of the L.C.C. include the heads of the departments largely concerned with land - not only the Soil Conservation Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forests Commission, State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, Department of Lands, Department of Mines; but also the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the National Parks Service. To the council were also added three people not public servants. These three are appointed by the "Governor in Council" and are persons with experience in various aspects of conservation. They are not However delegates from conservation bodies. At present they are: Mr. Claud Austin - "with experience in the conservation techniques used in developing land for primary production"; Mr. J.H. Landy and Professor J.S. Turner - "with special knowledge of and experience in some aspects of the conservation of natural resources". The last two were selected by the Government from a panel of names submitted by the Conservation Council of Victoria.

Finally there is an independant chairman - Mr. S.G. McL. Dimmick B.A., B.Com., Dip. Soc Stud. - who before his appointment to the L.C.C. was not a public servant and not experienced in land use matters. The rapid progress by the L.C.C. over the last 7 years owes a great deal to its chairman's administrative ability and drive and his quick appreciation of the problems.

Anentirely new feature of the L.C.C. is that the Act stipulates public participation in its deliberations - by means of first and second submissions sent to the Council after the publication, first of its report, and secondly of its "Proposed Recommendations". The number of these submissions (242 for S.W.1; 1,422 for "Melbourne Study Area; 13,000 for the Alpine Area) indicate the extent of the public interest.

Cont.....

L.C.C. Cont.

Many people assume (because of its title) that the main function of the L.C.C. is to create new National Parks and similar reserves; but this is not so. The term "Conservation" in the title implies "the wisest use of all our natural resources" and clearly the Council must recommend on (e.g.) reserved forests (both hard and soft wood), water catchments, mining, quarrying and agriculture. The legislation provides for consideration of land for all purposes; but (and this is new) "specifically requires that uses which tend to have been given less consideration and even low priority since settlement should not be neglected in future" - these include the creation of areas for conservation and recreation, and the preservation of areas of ecological significance.

In six years the Council has built up a small but highly trained staff at the St. Kilda Road offices: the professional officers (graduates in forestry, agriculture and economics) spend much of their time in the field and prepare the Reports with the help of the Study Groups recruited from the staff of the various departments. Decisions are made by the Council after field excursions with staff, numerous Council meetings and the study of public submissions.

The L.C.C. cannot determine policy. In the final analysis the Cabinet and the Government decide whether the recommendations are to be put into effect. The L.C.C. has studied 52% of the state which also includes 52% of public land in Victoria. It has published an enormous number of maps and a detailed report on each area studied so far. It has recommended a large number of old and new kinds of reserves and several of the earlier recommendations have already been approved by Government. These include "National Parks" (of international significance), "State Parks" (little different in purpose or viability); Regional Parks (with most stress on recreation near large cities). Coastal Reserves, Historical, Bushland, Flora & Fauna Reserves, Multi-purpose parks - and in addition of course many areas devoted mainly to forestry purposes. Two important new types of reserves Reference Areas and Educational Areas - must also be mentioned.

The lecturer used slides to show the areas dealt with and to illustrate the field excursions by Council. He explained how the L.V.F.N.C. could best help Council with detailed submissions (using local knowledge). He concluded his talk by hoping that amateur field naturalists will continue to work in uncommitted land, state forests, in National Parks and other areas, including roadside reserves, throughout the State and will continue to monitor the management of these areas by government agencies. One of the most useful things our Club can do is to help to educate people in the true values of National Parks, which are not (as so many still believe) devices for locking away land from the public.

Bon Thompson.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 22ND. 1978.

17th. Sept. A tour of historical Churchill Island has been arranged by the Warragul Field Naturalists Club. Members of the L.V.F.N.C. who are able to attend are asked to meet at the Information Centre on Phillip Island at 10.30 am. on Sunday, September 17th.
Cars will proceed through private property to cross the causeway, then follow the road to the homestead.
The Caretaker, Mr. John Shaw will meet us and lead us on a tour of the island - about 3 hours.
It is necessary to take food and drink for the day, as the causeway is covered by the high tide at abour 1.15 p.m.
As other groups will be joining us, name tags could be a sociable introduction to each other.
For further information rind Warragul 23 1563.

Sept. 22/23rd, Mr. Bart Sterkenburg will be our guest speaker for September speaking of his trip to West Aust.
Supper Roster Mrs. Huxley & Mrs. Merson.
Excursion Meeting at 10.00 a.m. at Lyndon Park, Steele St. Leongatha. Mrs. Lyndon will lead us to Bear Gully, near Cape Liptrap where we will meet with the Peninsula Field Naturalists **who are camping there for the week end.**

Oct. 6th. SPECIAL MEETING. when Mr. W. Emmison will speak on "POLAR BIRDS" Mr. Emmison is working with the Fisheries & wildlife and is one of a team who are making a survey of the birds & mammals in the various study areas for the L.C.C. He is an American who did similar work in the sub arctic and arctic areas. Please invite friends for this interesting evening.

A letter was received from the Dept. of Crown Lands re the Traralgon South Reserve. Mr. Thompson reported that the S.E.C. & Traralgon Council were negotiating the new site on McCormack's Rd. It has been suggested that the committee of Management now managing the Traralgon South Reserve should now manage this new area.
At our last General meeting Mrs. Thompson read a letter received from the S.E.C. re a supervisory cable to be dug along the roadside between Hazelwood & Loy Yang. The map showed that the proposed route of this cable would necessitate the chopping down of trees along Hazelwood, Church & Clarke's Rd. Members suggested an alternate route along the same roads but on the other side of the fences, on land already cleared. Mrs. Thompson has received an answer re this matter, asking her to inspect yet another alternate route for this cable. Mrs. Thompson will do so as soon as possible.
Members were asked to forward any suggestion for next years program. Please help committee in this matter.
Several Conserv. Newsletters were received and are available to members to read.
Next Committee meeting Tuesday Sept.19th. Mrs. I. Peterson. 7.30.
A CARD JUST RECEIVED FROM MRS. PADFIELD WHO IS NOW IN ALASKA. ENJOYING EVERY MOMENT!!!!!!!!!

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Rd.
YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 Family $4.50 Single Member $4.00

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OCTOBER, 1978

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING Friday October 20th. at 8 p.m. J & N BROOKS will give an illustrated talk on Western Australian tripo Part 1.

EXCURSION Sunday 22nd. October Contact secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING Friday October 27th. Mr. Richard Loyn "Migrating Birds"

EXCURSION To Gippsland Lakes meeting at Lake Guthridge, Sale at 10.00 a.m.

Mr. Suckling, who is making a survey of the Mammals in the Gippsland area has had his traps stolen. This is a great loss to him as he is working for his thesis and needs his traps for further study. Anyone hearing anything that could lead to the return of these traps are asked to contact secretary... Mr. Suckling was the speaker at our June meeting.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING Friday, November 3rd. Mr. Herb. Guyatt "Wading Birds"

EXCURSION Dowds Morass, contact Secretary for details.

EXCURSION TO THE MORWELL NATIONAL PARK JULY 1978.

The excursion to the Morwell National Park was indeed a very pleasant day, particularly so as this park willbe included in the next L.C.C. study area.

The park, though small, 375 acres, is very interesting and one which the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club phyed a leading role in having proclaimed a National Park, so we were more than pleased when Mr. Catawell, the Ranger who was our leader mentioned that the park was to be enlarged to 775 acres, this is in the process of going through now. The park, of course was proclaimed mainly because of the tree orchid Sarcochilus australis (Butterfly Orchid) which clings to the prickly currant and Pittosporum growing in this particular gully. There were quite a few plants seen but as they bloom in January they were not out. However it was still a thrill to know that they are still thriving as they are very rare orchids in this area.

We walked along the track between tall mountain grey gums in blossom, one such tree had a party of about 25 E. Rosellas flying and singing (?) in and out the branches, it really was a lovely sight. We walked past a dogwood just covered in lichen, several messmates with very definite markings of possums of some sort using the tree as a runway. The nest of a ring tailed possum was sighted. The ranger pointed out a large hold in a tree where a mo poke lived so I guess the whole park came alive in the night.

Several fungi were seen and ferns were plentiful, mother shield, tender brake, bristle, rough tree ferns, rainbow and sickle ferns were identified.

Continuing our walk we past a Kangaroo Apple, Blanket-leaf and Wonga vine but the many Pittosporum made a picture with their bright orange berries

We came across a fresh lyrebirds' mound which was very pleasing as it was thought that local dogs were entering the park with dire results. The Ranger made the walk most interesting by telling us the History of the Park. It was last logged in 1956 but before that there had been a try at gold mining, there were 37 orchids listed and 61 birds. We were still following the old snigg track and came to an old gravel pit which made an ideal sun trap, a small pool of water in the middle made it a real paradise for the birds and they made good use of it. We finally came to the end of the track and Mr. Catawell pointed out the area to be added to the park, It looks a lovely gully and should enhance the park.

On the way back we went down the gully, over large fallen logs, through mud but finally found the oval fork-fern (Tmesipteris ovata)

Cont.....

EXCURSION TO THE MORWELL NATIONAL PARK Cont.

WHICH IS a very rare fern that grows on tree ferns. This find just "made" Professor Turner's day as he is very interested in ferns.

Meanwhile Mrs. Turner and the birdos were having a field day and chalked up a total of 22 birds which included 8 honey-eaters.

It really was a delight to have lunch in such surroundings, watched by a lazy koala and visited continually be the different birds. All in all it was a perfect day and our thanks must go to Mr. Catawell for his good leadership and companionship.

Iris Peterson.

TALK ON PROPAGATION OF NATIVE PLANTS BY BILL CANE.

25th. August 1978

The multiplication of native plants may be carried out in a number of ways, by seeds, cuttings, grafting or budding, layering or by tissue culture. Of these the latter is a new method used primarily for special purposes or crops and is too costly for the home gardener or small nurseryman to considef.

For successful seed raising a light friable soil, moisture and warmth are essential. A mixture of equal parts river sand and compost is suitable for most native seeds. Seedlings thus raised crow well when transplanted because of good root formation due to scarce food availability when young. Damping-off of seedlings in this mixture is not a problem as the sand does not support fungi. Seeds should be planted between September and May unless artificial heat is available. After pressing down the seeds or lightly covering them, the soil should not be disturbed during germination. Allow sufficient water to keep damp but do not overwater, and keep out of the sun after 11 a.m. in October or later.

Plants of Acacia, Boronia, Dillwynia, Eriostemon, Gompholobium, Hardenbergia and Hovea, in fact most pea flowers, have seed well adapted to surviving long dry hot periods and the abrasion of sand. To hasten germination of these hard covered seeds, place them in a cup, fill with boiling water, and soak for 12 hours. Those swollen will germinate when planted while others may need re-treatment.

Grevilleas, which are difficult to grow from cuttings, may be easier grown from seeds, which have been soaked in a

Cont.....

TALK ON PROPAGATION Cont.

cup of water in which a half pea-sized lump of Saltpetre has been dissolved. Do not water any seedlings overhead in cloudy or humid weather.

Cuttings taken from the young top growth of native plants are the most successful and quickest to root. These should form a good root system within six weeks to six months of planting, but this varies between species. Collect these cuttings on a cool day or in the early morning and plant soon afterwards to prevent drying out or wilting. Cut pieces about three inches long and remove surplus leaves from the bottom third with a sharp knife. (dillwynia and Banksia however strike better with these leaves left on). Late autumn growth provides the best spring cuttings. For Persoonia and some other plants try wipping out the young tip growth as this appears to inhibit roots forming.

An acid soil is necessary for all cuttings, acid stops the entry of organisms which cause rotting and fungus growth. An alkali soil is unsuitable. Commercial hormone cutting powderscontain 3 - 4 parts per million indol butyric acid diluted with talc powder. These powders are successful with some native cuttings but appear to burn the bark of others. In earlier times plant stems were aften soaked for an hour in a mixture of one teaspoonful of vinegar to one gallon of water. Peatmoss is also used to give a similar acid solution.

For striking cuttings a good mixture should contain equal parts of sieved peatmoss, pearlite, river sand and polystyrene beads. This medium is acid, retains moisture and air, drains well and allows roots to penetrate freely when formed (Geralton Wax likes a 50/50 sand, leaf mould mix.)

In summer shade temperature is usually hot enough for most cuttings. Sterilizing or steaming of soil is not necessary unless propagating under hot house conditions where elevated temperature and humidity cause fungus growth.

Aerial layering occurs naturally in such trees as the Moreton Bay Fig. Roots form in the cambium layer and force their way through the bark. Ground layering and coppiceing are found on the blanched stems of native cherry, Persoonia, Conospermum and uprooted eucalypts. Tea-tree branches take root readily when pinned down on a bed of peat moss. To simulate these natural moist warm conditions for aerial layering select a small branch with wood about six months old, preferably this should be at a leaf axil or bud where the bark is always thinnest. Damp peat moss is pressed around the branch and enclosed in clean plastic film tied at each end to form a

Cont.....

TALK ON PROPAGATION Cont.

pouch. A diagonal cut is not necessary. The important factors are the age of the bark on the branch, the moisture and air contained in the moss and the blanching of the bark.

During supper Bill Cane and his son John - an authority on acacias, were kept busy identifying and labelling plant specimens brought along by members.

Ken McDonald.

TRIP ALONG INSOLVENT TRACK 26th. August 1978

Whilst driving along towards Maffra we passed several rivers that were lined with silver wattles,(named because of the silver bark) all out in bloom, also past several mountain ducks, so our day really started long before we ever reached the meeting place at the Macalister Hotel!!! Whilst waiting for the others to arrive a couple of keen birdos walked along the banks of the Macalister river and found a pair of nankeen night herons in an eucalypt. Finally nine cars were ready to set off, lead by Mr. Cane, we went through some very interesting country too, passing golden wattle in bloom, past the consolidated school with its lovely native trees donated by Mr. Cane who also supervised the children planting them, then along over the Avon River, past the memorial re. McMillan*s old homestead, "Bushy Park", past the old post and rail fences. Several Galahs flew overhead, reminding us that once they were considered rare in this area but now seen quite often, they really are birds of the drier areas.

We stopped to see an unusual Eucalypt that had smooth bark on top and rough at the bottom instead of being either all smooth or all rough, seemed to have some characteristics of Euc. Mountain Grey but.....!!! We also saw the scented bark Euc., E. aromaphloia that is a short broad tree at Rosedale but here is a tall, slim tree, recognized by the penetrating smell of bark. We continued through Euc. country full of bee boxes though hardly a flower was to be seen, no doubt these hives were put there earlier in the year when the Ironbark were in bloom. However we did see several varieties of wattles in bloom, nodding blue lilies, purple Hardenbergia, two varieties of Hibbertia (yellow Guinea Flower). We stopped a little further on to see several plants of Correa reflexa, a white form and a green form which is the same as red Correa reflexa and differs in colour only. It was a really interesting stop, wild violets Candles (Stackhousia) purple hovea six kinds of wattles but only four in bloom Golden Wattle, Florabunda, white sallow and spiked wattle with its lovely catkins, red heath Epacris impressa made a splash of colour, several orchids, acianthus exsertus,

Cont.....

TRIP ALONG INSOLVENT TRACK Cont.

Nodding green hood-Pterostylis nutans, Trim P. concinna, Maroonhood P. pedunculata were all flowering in this forest.

Another stop and we found Daphne heath, the pink and white form of Boronia muelleri, Indigo, Wonga Vine, daisies the brachycome family, Veronica perfoliata, Digger's speedwell that always seem to grow in hard, rocky places and where there seems to be gold...hence the common name.

Mr. Cane found his long leafed Eistermon in bloom, this double flowered plant is unique and Mr. Cane has twice saved it from being burnt out...this area is very prone to bush fires. White form of Tetratheca ericifolia was found. We looked down on a 50ft High Euc. just covered in Clematis...a really lovely sight. Daviesia buxifolia, this bitter pea with its shining, heart-shaped leaves though not yet in flower would soon be a picture. The light and shade on the mountains in the distance viewed through the tips of the young, red, shiny tips of the Euc. in the foreground were a real delight, Mr. Cane slowed down so we could all appreciate this lovely view.

At our lunch break Mr. Cane told me the story of the name of the track..Insolvent Track ...Dargo, in the early days was a goldmining area and miners came down the Freestone Creek Track to the stores and hotel at Briagolong etc., however there were many miners not doing as well as expected, but wanted a drink at the hotel so instead of using the Freestone Creek Road, went up and around the back way in order to miss their Creditors... this track became known as Insolvent Track!!!!! The other version of the story is that the contractors building the road went broke....However I like the first story, seems to be more colourful of that era.

We later joined the Freestone Creek Road and saw the erosion caused by the recent flooding in the area. We stopped at Winke Creek, a creek that flows into Freestone Creek, that,in turn, flows into the Avon River and here we saw three of the 15 varieties of Pomaderris Rough Hazel P. aspera that had variegated leaves, Velvet P.velutina and blunt leaf P. helianthemiflia as well as purple mint bush Hakea, white sallow wattle that grows at Freestone Creek and Eastwards, Small Boronia B. nanna, creeping Bossiaea B. prostrata.

Another stop was made to see a group of about 10 trim greenhoods P. concinna growing in moss and facing the wall face, they just asked to have their photo taken and members did what was expected of them!!!!

Further along we saw Grevillea lanigera growing along the enbankment in profusion. It really was a lovely and a perfect ending to a perfact day. It was a little early in the season,

Cont.....

Insolvent Track Cont. but we did see most flowers that grow in the area though only a glimpse of what the area would be like a little later in mid-spring when it would be an absolute picture. Birdos had a good day too, chalking up 30 birds, including the NANKEEN NIGHT HERONS & YELLOW TUFTED HONEYEATERS which I understand are both "prizes" for birdos.

Top marks to Mr. Cane who was a very good, considerate leader who certainly knew the area and even the exact location of the various plants of interest, who slowed down for us to see views and who even told the history of the area...all in all a wonderful day.

Iris Peterson.

DETAILS OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH. SEPTEMBER.

Miss Grace Auchterlonie has donated several very interesting and valuable books that belonged to Mr. Auchterlonie, these books will be placed in the library for members.

Suggestions for next years program are still being sorted... please contact Secretary with any suggestions YOU would like to have included.'

Mr. Richard Loyn will speak on Migrating Birds on the 27th.Oct. Excursion to the Gippsland lakes...meeting at Lake Guthridge at 10.00 a.m.

Mrs. Thompson reported that the Bairnsdale Club are seeking further information re. the Lind National Park.

The Club's submission re. the Roseneath building complex has been presented, same objections as for the original plan.

Traralgon Council has approved in principle to leasing the McCormack's Road Reserve.

Forestry commission has presented the Club with a detailed map showing the vegetation growing in the Macalister River watershed. Mr. Evan Chesterfield, our guest speaker for November was responsible for this survey.

Next business meeting will be in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lubcke on the 24th. October.

Regarding the supervisory Cable to be dug from Hazelwood and Loy Yang. Final decision is for this cable to go along the east side of Clark's Road, along the fence line, this would not necessitate the felling of many trees, then along Firman's Lane. S.E.C. have assured Mrs. Thompson that the topsoil would be replaced on the top so that vegetation would soon grow again.

Supper Roster October 27th. Mrs. Burns - Mrs. Padfield.

BARRY TRAILL recently entered the Science Talent competition & won 2nd. prize..$35. for his entry Bird Population in the Pine Forest. This project was forwarded to Melbourne for all Vic. and he has won a further $50. CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL MEMBERS BARRY.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday November 17th
Mr and Mrs O Brewster will give an illustrated talk on their tripto CAPE YORK.

EXCURSION: Sunday November 19th
Contact Secretary for details

NOte. F.N.C.V. will be visiting Labertouche on November 19th.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday November 24th
Mr Evan Chesterfield
"VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION"

EXCURSION: Saturday November 25th to Benison High Plains area.

MEETING PLACE: Heyfield Butter Factory at 10.00am

It is a rather early start for excursion but there will be a lot of ground to cover .

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP Saturday December 9th. at the property of the Ringin's at Coalville (BUNDILLA).
Directions on separate sheet. All welcome from 3.00 pm
Bring afternoon tea and evening meal. Hope to see you there?

EXCURSION TO BEAR GULLY 23rd. Sept.

10.00 a.m. saw us all assembled at Lyndon Park ready to head off to Bear Gully to meet the Peninsula Field Nats. However, just out of Leongatha we stopped to look at a gravel pit...over a period of three years or so Mrs. Lyndon has planted six different species of wattles as well as dozens of other natives along the side of the road in an effort to hide this awful scar. As the soil is pure clay and the water just sits on the top, no-one but Mrs. Lyndon would ever attempt such a project however all the plants look healthy enough and even the natural vegetation is beginning to re-appear.

We continued along, passing hedges of the intro. broom all out in flower on one side of the road while black she oaks grew on the other side.

The weather over the previous week had been anything but good, very heavy rain had fallen and we feared the road to Bear Gully could be impassable. We stopped half way down and Mr. Brookes in his jeep went on further where a bad patch was suspected. However he came back reporting that the track was now only damp, but had been impassable during the week. We all went ahead and on to Bear Gully and were very pleased to find that the Peninsula Field Nats. had made it the previous evening and had set up their camps in this very sheltered gully and were out sightseeing.

We parked our cars under Coast teatree L.laevigatum, Coast Banksia B.integrifolia, coast Wattle A.longifolia Coast beard heath L.parviflorus and near white Correa C.alba and then went for a walk along "Bear Gully".....early settlers thought the Koala were pouched bears(Jim's grandfather never called them anything else but "monkey Bears") so this gully must have had quite a large population of koalas to earn the name of Bear Gully though we didn't see one on Saturday, though we did see the scratchings of a wombat and a very interesting rat hole!!! However as we walked along the bank of the creek we found orchid leaves of Acanthis, Helmet Corybas and nodding greenhoods, P.nutans, Maroonhoods P. pedunculata were flowering. Screw fern, fishbone fern, softwater ferns, scrambling coral fern king fern, maiden hair and rainbow ferns were all growing. We were stopped in our travels by a newly erected fence and most reluctantly followed this back to camp, but the pen. nats. had not finished lunch so we set off again along the coast and into the shelter of the teatrees and found many leaves of the Hare orchid C.Menziesii and several waxlip G.major also two pomaderris P. aspera and P. oraria, Hibbertia sericea, dainty violets, Persoonia juniperina, Kangaroo Apple Pultenaea daphnoides, dusty miller, coast everlasting H. paralium, coast Ballart E.syrticolus Love creeper and clematis micraphylla, one solitary wallflower D. longifolia and some BEAUTIFUL pink fairies C. latifolia.

Cont.....

EXCURSION TO BEAR GULLY Cont.

By this time the Pen. Nats. were ready to set off in the opposite direction to that taken in the morning and found two forms of spinach , Bower spinach T. implexicoma and T. tetragonioides. I was not a bit surprised to see Swamp paper bark Melaleuca ericifolia as the track we were taking was more like a river bed, The children were having great fun - water going over the top of their gum boots!!! However, we older children, trying to set a good example, kept to the sides and only got our shoes muddy.....but we didn't have half the fun!!!! We also found Muehlenbeckia DOING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL IN THE SWAMP AREA. We soon found ourselves at the mouth of the creek and on the beach where the children paddled and generally got even wetter, still the laughter coming from that direction was worth it!!!! We lazy ones just sat on the sand and admired the view, thinking how lucky we were to have such an area still unspoilt. The birdos went further afield and brought their total to 42. Some walked along the shore gathering shells, while others just meandered back to the cars. All in all it was a good day, we learnt more of the area than we ever knew before and also met up with the Pen. Nats., We hope we can meet up again sometime in the future.

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon who did so much to make our day such a success.

Iris Peterson.

FOOTNOTE It would be a great pity if any of this land was to be built on as there are only about 1800 acres of Crown Land in the Shire of Wooral and as much again in Sth. Gippld, Shire. This whole area - not just Bear Gully - is rich in Flora. Mrs. Lyndon and her group have recorded 270 plant species, including 36 ferns and 27 orchids and this list is growing with every visit made. Birds are well represented and animal life is sure to be plentiful. The area around Waratah Bay as well as being scenically beautiful is of historic interest with the ruins of the lime kilns etc., while the cliffs themselves are of special interest to Geology students.

10 years ago the Twon and Country Planning Authority and the Shires put a "blanket" on the whole area until the L.C.C. recommendations are finalized. It is hoped that this area could remain Crown Land and not be sold for modern development.

Iris Peterson.

COMBINED CLUBS OUTING TO CHURCHILL ISLAND.

Warragul Club's outing to Phillip Island in September seemed to us the long awaited opportunity to see Churchill Island, which was bought by the Government through the Victoria Conservation Trust in 1976. We did not know much about the island at this stage, or its approaches, and wondered ifthe tide would permit us to leave it before dark. We decided, however, that to be marooned in such good company would be no great hardship at all.

We are really only an hour from the island but had allowed an extra half hour as the recipe had said "Be on time". While we inspected the antique shops of San Remo who should turn up but Eric and June, eating icecreams. The weather forecast wasnt the best so we were fortunate in the mild day it turned out to be.

The gorse bushes along the main roads are a legacy from the pioneers, who felt at thome behind prickly hedges. They vied with the native prickly moses to provide a glimpse of gold among the teatree. Some thirtytwo cars turned up at the tourist Centre, including members of Camera Club, Field Nats, Historical Societies, Walking Club and C.W.A. Does that cover them all?

Jack and Nancy Brooks led the way through gates into private property, flat swampy land where enermous pelicans lounged around in groups A hump-backed bridge with seethrough railings (it reminded me of the one over the River Kwai) just wide enough to take a car provided you drove in a straight line, gave access to Churchill Island. We learned later that only in times of exceptionally high tides is the low shingle causeway covered. The homestead on the highest central point of the island is sheltered by ancient pines and cypresses, long past their prime. As we drew into the yard a group of native tree trunks, unbelievably large, came into focus. they were those of the local tea trees, the Moonah, (Melaleuca lanceolata) gnarled and corrugated, their heads lost in the cypresses above.

Everyone alighted and were invited round the front of the house for a short talk given by the Manager? who outlined the history of the island. We stood in the shelter of a stately Hoop Pine, a Queensland tree that has found the area to its liking. Its huge trunk was buttressed in the best jungle fashion. Contrary to local naming, it is not a Norfolk Pine.

The island is of great historical interest, for it was here that Lieut. Grant landed in 1801 to plant Victoria's first cereals, vegetables and fruit trees. It seems to me that there must have beenlanded when he wasnt looking, all the seeds of those rampant exotic weeds and thistles that so tickled our ankles as we walked among the new trees.

The front paddocks of the island property are sown to pasture grasses and carry stock, for some means must be found to keep the grass in check on the farm.Perhaps Lieut. Grant was doing the right thing when he planted potatoes in that powdery red soil ?

contd...pp4

COMBINED CLUBS EXCURSION TO CHURCHILL ISLAND contd...

On the other side of the island, the windy side, a forest has been plantedwhich ,in time, will merge with the sturdy old Moonahs that still cling to the steep shoreline.

Parties of visitors wandered through the buildings and the grounds or explored the Mangrove swamps. Perhaps due to the strong breeze and the tide no wading birds were to be seen that day. In the early afternoon the cars began to head homewards over the see-through bridge, leaving the tight little island to the troops of solemn pelicans.

Notable items in hte old garden that appealed to me were the elderly Olive trees and the huge specimen of Lauris nobilis, the Green Bay Tree of the Ancients. The Greeks and the Romans long ago crowned their heroes with laurel wreaths, and today the tree finds a place in the gardens of trendy herb growers who flavor their soups and stews with the dried bay leaves .

E.Lyndon

TOPPLING TREES. by Bart Sterkenburg

When you go in a westerley direction along Waterloo road, you will see on your right a lovely section of bush, nothing unusual, or special, yet I never fail to either slow down or stop to have a look at this patch. There are some lovely trees, but some are leaning over quite a lot. Underneath there is some undergrowth of small bushes, ferns and a number of small shade loving plants using the shelter of the trees.

After every storm I go there. So far the trees have stood up well to the buffeting winds, but one day , perhaps this year, perhaps in ten inevitably some of the trees will topple and the wind from the flat surrounding country will attack the smaller plants so that eventually all will be gone.

Many times I have wondered what would I do if it was my bush. Would I put a fence around it? It would certainly keep the cattle out, but no, I think I have a better idea. The older trees, after sheltering The strong growing young trees could be removed to enable those young trees to grow tall. In this way, "My bush" would gradually be rejuvenated, and in 5 or 10 years be still there, stronger than ever.

Still it is not my bush, perhaps the owner wants to let his cattle graze there, is more interested in his livelihood than in the beauty. Yet this place still haunts me because this beautiful group of trees reminds me so much of our own club. Here we have a group of hard working people, all aiming to protect and enjoy nature, so that future generations may also gain the same pleasure. I feel though, that we are, like this lovely group of trees, getting on in years. Several of us, including myself, are like the leaning trees, perhaps to be blown over one day without having made sufficient room for the young to grow up.

Why not invite some of the younger members of the Club to be, firstly, assistants to the members of the Committee. In this way they will grow up sheltered from storms, and be ready to take the places of older members when they step down. Many other Clubs have this problem, but if we want to keep our younger members interested in our past, present and future work we should act soon, act now. Perhaps the young will change course , but that is part of the rejuvenating process.

REPORT OF TALK BY Mr BART STERKENBURG 22/9/78.

TRIP TO WEST AUSTRALIA

This was a most interesting talk on a trip by four people in August 1977. To show where they had been Mr Sterkenburg had prepared a highly detailed map and it was of great interest to those who had travelled the route or who were intending to. Among his observations was the fact that Monarch Butterflies were in great frofusion- most unusual as we have them in November in Victoria.

The huge Tuart trees 300 - 400 years old were spectacular, much like the Horse Chestnuts of Europe. He visited Cape Leeuwin, the most westerly point of Australia where the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean meet.Also visited was the Caves area where there are 120 caves. The fire lookout at Pemberton really tried his climbing skills as it is 64 metres high and is built in a Kauri tree 87 metres high . It is called the Gloucester Tree as the Duke of Gloucester opened the tower on a visit there some years ago.

The Pitcher plants were of great interest, they have two types of leaves,pitcher type leaves secrete acid fluid to help digest insects. The lid stays open and the claws in the pitcher stops the insects escaping.During March the plant changes and then has white flowers to attract pollination.

He also visited the Whaling Station- thankfully these works are now closed. On to the Stirling Ranges, the highest point being Bluff Knoll 1703 metres and alive with flowers - a most spectacular place, and only a short trip from Albany.
Two Peoples Bay has a sanctuary for the noisy scrub bird thought to be extinct for 70 years. Plants that are found in the Barren Range are not found elsewhere in Australia, but are found in South America and Siuth Africa. The Salmon Gums were of great interest with their highly polished bark and a good stand of them are to be seen near Noresman. On the way home these happy travellers called in to the Grampians and there saw a Kangaroo with twin babies, a v ery rare happening. The evening concluded with a most interesting selection of slides mostly flowers which Mr Sterkenburg named as we went- a most enjoyable evening and one that had taken much time and work to prepare.

N.PUckey

SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES

Several years ago when visiting Mt Erica in December we observed what we identified as, Macleay's Swallowtail butterflies. They were feeding on the Creeping Fan-flower (Scaevola hookeri).
The butterflies were very persistant. When we set up the camera to photograph the fan-flower the butterflies flew off but the moment we moved away they were back feeding again.
On a recent visit to Mt. St Gwinear we observed this butterfly, but this time it was in flight . The fan-flower was close by but the butterfly did not settle so I could not observe it feeding.

Does this butterfly feed on many alpine plants and is the fan-flower a favourite ?

Don Thompson

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 24th 1978.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP. This would be held on December 9th at the property of Mr Ringin at Narracan. Adequate parking available , full directions printed on separate sheet in Naturalist.

JANUARY CAMPOUT. Decided that we would try to be at Holmes Plain as we could not go there last year. Mr Evan Chesterfield has agreed to be our leader. More details will be published in December Naturalist .

CORRESPONDENCE. From City of Moe re Edward Hunter Reserve, Gippsland Regional Environment Study, referred to Mrs Thompson. Shadow Minister of Conservation, Labor Policy for conservation. Shire of Morwell ere Meals on Wheels circular.
PUBLICATIONS. C.C.V.Newsletter, Vic. Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist, Victorian Conservation Trust Report, S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter, Environs, The Clean Environment.
Requests for Naturalist from Tait Bookshop Melbourne, ALCOA Aust.

Arrangements for October Meeting finalised. Mr Loyn to be given a Native Plant . Mr LUbcke to arrange this.

MEETING PLACE. We had been advised that the Yallourn School would not be available after this year. Several alternatives being investigated. Schools, G.I.A.E. Regional Education Offices at Moe.etc The REgional Education Offices at Moe seem to be the most suitable for our purposes. It has all facilities for supper, pleasant room, plenty of parking space, toilets and it is free. There could be a small charge at a later date. We do pay $2.00 for the school now.
In any case we must have a new meeting place for the January Meeting.

Mr Sterkenburg was not present but he wished to refer to the letter written by our member Barry Traill re the stolen Mammal Traps which belonged to Mr Suckling. We do hope that some information can soon find the traps.
Also Mr Sterkenburg wished to be relieved of his duties as President, as his health at the present does not allow him to give his all to the position. Decided that the Vice Presidents would act until the Annual Meeting when the office of President will be open for election. Members please give some thought to this matter as it is a very important position in the Club.

NATURALIST COSTS. We have yet to find out the exact costs for the Naturalist, but it seems that an increase cannot be avoided.
We have managed to contain costs for the past 2 years.
We order one years supply of paper, covers, wrappers, stencils etc. at the end of the year.
The next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Peterson on Tuesday November 21st at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster November 24th. Mrs Sterkenburg Mr Lester

Conservation Co-ordinator. The L.C.C. North Central Report is ready. Compiling report for South Gippsland Study area No 2. for L.C.C. Assisting with Bird Habitat Survey for Shire of Traralgon.

DIRECTIONS TO BUNDILLA CHRISTMAS BREAKUP 9/12/78

Proceeding from the overhead bridge in Moe, travel along HIGH STREET on the COALVILLE,NARRACAN THORPDALE ROAD.
At approx. 3 km. from Moe the junction of the THORPDALE ROAD is reached At this point you may take either road.
(a) If taking the right hand route (The Moe South Rd)proceed for 4km uphill till Rosato's Rd. is observed branching to the left.
Follow ROSATO'S ROAD downhill for almost 2 km, to BUNDILLA.

NOTE Appropriate signs will be posted at Rosato's Rd. junction and destination. For those people coming down this way there will be parking for 8-10 cars beside the road at "BUNDILLA".

(b) If taking the left-hand route (The Thorpdale Road) simply follow the bitumen road for approx 8 km. to old Coalville township site, while in a flat area to the right of the road you will observe an archway of treated timber poles. Take the gravel road to the right past the arch way and follow this road for 1.6 km. to "BUNDILLA"

Direction signs will be displayed at the road junction at Coalville near the archway.
People coming from Morwell direction may avoid going into Moe by turning left off the MOE EXIT ROAD at the COALVILLE sign just prior to GUNN'S GULLY and following the TWO MILE ROAD for 2.5 km. to its junction with the bitumen - THORPDALE ROAD. On reaching the junction of the TWO MILE RD. and the THORPDALE RD. turn left and follow the bitumen road for almost 5km. to the old Coalville township site where the treated timber arch and a directional sign will be seen.

Take the gravel road to the right past the archway as indicated by the sign and follow this road 1.6 km. to "BUNDILLA"

Parking will be available at BUNDILLA and also on the roadside.
A large Barbeque is available and an urn with boiling water will be available all day.

"WELCOME TO BUNDILLA "

Thankyou Mr Ringin for these directions.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3820 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Rd.
YALLOURN 3838.

Naturalist $3.50 Family $4.50 Single Member $4.00

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Hon.Editor, Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

DECEMBER, 1978

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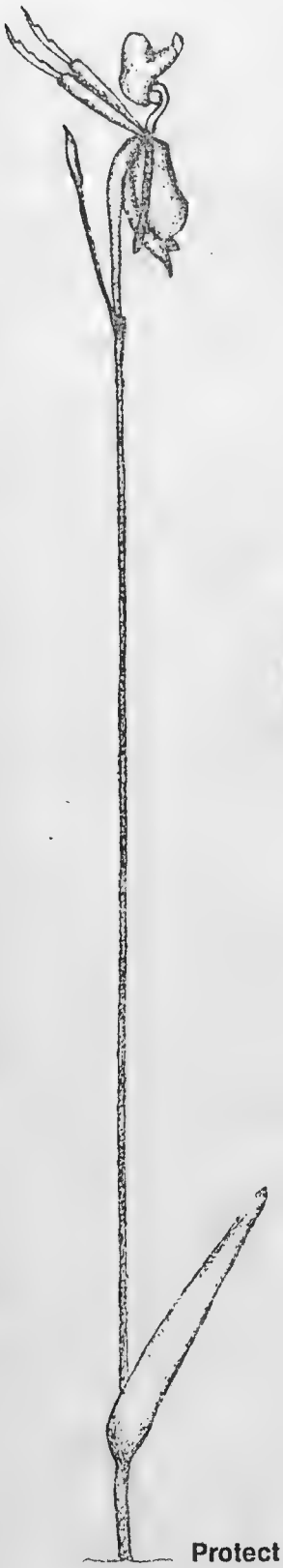

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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Registered at the General Post Office Melbourne for transmission by Post as a Periodical Category B.

COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C. No meeting in December

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. No meeting in December

Weekend Campout January 27,28,29 . Holmes Plain Mt Howitt Rd.

Please refer to map December 1977.

Follow Tamboritha road past ST Paul's camp , and continue past the junction of Noroka and Howitt roads at Mt Arbuckle. Keep on the Howitt road for about 4 km and then take a small road off to the left a short distance to the camp site.

Roads will be signposted. Hope to see you there.

Traralgon F.N.C. No meeting in January

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS.

POLAR AND SUB POLAR BIRDS ADDRESS by Mr W.Emison

Mr Emison was part of a team that studied fauna in the Alaskan-Aleutian Islands area.The first area discussed was the delta formed by the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers on the western portion of Alaska. It is a sub-polar region with a very cold winter. Slides illustrated the tundra in this area.

Some of the research commenced because of the collisions between aircraft and the Whistling Swans. U.S.Airforce funded the research in an endeavour to by-pass the migration route of the birds and so avoid the collisions.Some Whistling Swans in eastern U.S.A. were marked and transmitters attached to their backs.This enabled them to be followed.

On the tidal flats of the Alaskan delta hundreds of thousands of wading birds breed in the summer; but they domigrate south for the winter. Mr Emison showed a slide of a small weasel that does not migrate - so it must be a very hardy animal.

On the Alaskan Peninsula the lakes are glacier formed and the views were beautiful. The research team were working on lakes near the Katmai National Park and used float planes as transport. Here they were studying the red salmon , a very commercial fish. The land consisted of Spruce forest with some tundra and meadows with many creeks. The creeks contained ponds made by the beavers. Slides showed the Spruce Grouse, one of the few animals that eat the Spruce needles. These birds do not migrate but remain all the year. They can have as many as 10 young in a clutch.

The mammalian fauna of Alaska includes the Brown Bear which can grow to nearly 1;000 lbs but is not very aggressive. The Moose, however is very aggressive during the mating season.

The third northern area of research was the Aleutian Islands - Amchitka in particular. This island is 35 miles long and 5 miles wide at the broadest part. Land forms consist of low plateaus, mountains to 1;000 ft. and high plateaus.It was as American military base during the war with a major Japanese base 42 miles away. Therefore there was much bombing causing much disturbance to the island. where the tundra has been drained or uplifted forming drier ground, many compositae flowers bloom for a short period during the summer. These are very different from the usual tundra flora. Weather was very difficult for bird-watching as in one month, June, there were only two days of clear weather, all the rest being misty. However in winter the days were clear but very cold. The winds prevented the building up of snow on the island. The marine birds were able to fly from the windward side to the sheltered side of the island depending on prevailing rough weather. The erosion caused by man during the war is taking a long time to recover; could take hundreds of years. Slides taken at different seasons showed the change in the colour of the tundra vegetation throughout the year.

contd....

POLAR AND SUB POLAR BIRDS cntd...

The Bald Eagle nested on stacks off the islands. These stacks are rock formations surrounded by the sea and with plant growth on top. Naturally the birds were free from predators there and the population appeared to be very healthy. their nests were very similar to that of the Wedge-tailed Eagle; but were composed of kelp.Many of the chicks were banded.

The Peregrine Falcon nested on the cliffs. They were the same species as here but a different race. Once again the young chicks were banded.There is much concern about these birds as many races have disappeared. Cornell University in the U.S.A. is breeding the falcons to replace races where and if necessary. They are succeeding in breeding the birds in captivity. Mr Emison then showed the following series of slides depicting some of the common birds and mammals in the Aleutians.

Rock Ptarmigans remain in the arctic all the year. Although in summer they are grayish brown with black patches, their plumage turned white in the winter.

Rosy Finches took over the abonded army huts to build their nests on the shelves inside.

Snow Bunting nested in the rocky crevices of the high areas.

Common Teal- asiatic race - occured on the islands. these were different from the american race and the two subspecies met near the island. They interbred with each other.

Rock Sandpipers were all year round residents. They nested on the tundra and flocked to the coast for the rest of the year.

Oyster catchers nested just above the tide zone on the rocky beach and from the shells around, limpets were evidently their main diet

Herring Gulls frequented the island with the adults remaining but the young birds dispersed even as far as Siberia.

Harlequin Ducks also remained all year.

Guillemots are one of the marine birds that fill the same niche in the arctic that the Penguins do in the antarctic.

Arctic Terns breed on Amchitka and travel to the antarctic - an amazing distance.

The Emperor Geese breed in Siberia and Alaska and winter in Amchitka.

Wandering Tattlers and Ruddy Turnstones migrate as far south as Australia.

Mammals on Amchitka included the Blue Fox introduced by fur trappers towards the end of the last century. NOw a move is afoot to eradicate the foxes from some of the Aleutian Islands because of the destruction they cause to the fauna. On Amchitka the effort has been successful.

Sea Lions breed on the island. Sea Otters are a real success story. These animals were feared to be almost extinct due to fur trading at the turn of the century.United States tried to save them and now the species have returned to the Aleutian Islands and are gradually coming back along the coast of the United States.

contd.....

POLAR AND SUB POLAR BIRDS. contd...

Mr Emison then showed slides of the Antarctic, particularly his field of interest the Adelie Penguin on Ross Island. The Adelie Penguin Rookery at Cape Crozier was studied. 150,000 breeding pairs occupied the rookery causing much congestion. they built raised nests of stones and laid two eggs which wereincubated by both parents in turn. The raised nest was necessary as otherwise during the thaw after snow, the eggs would be immersed in water. Slides of these birds showed the stages of growth of the chicks. Leopard Seals were a real predator also South Polar Skuas took eggs or weak chicks. 1,000 pairs of Skuas nested around the periphery of the rookery.

Mr Emison finished his address with slides of the spectacular Emperor Penguins which nested on the sea ice and did not come ashore. Both parents in turn incubated the egg during the dead of winter by placing it on their feet and covering it with a fold of skin.

The adaptability of these various species of fauna to the harsh conditions of the polar and subpolar regions was of great interest.

Bon thompson

MIGRATORY BIRDS

address by Mr Richard Loyn 27/10/78

Mr Loyn commenced by telling us how extremely fast and mobile migrating birds are. Some birds can cover up to 500 miles in a night and there is one bird which travels 2400 miles from South America to Newfoundland in North America non stop. We were also told of the Arctic Tern which has the longest migration path in the world. From the Arctic where it nests to the Antarctic pack ice where it spends the northern winter it travels 25,000 miles a year!

Mr Loyn then explained the differences between nomadic birds and true migratory birds. Migratory birds follow set migration paths each year and nest in one place and winter in another. the waders that arrive in Australia are good examples; they nest in Siberia and Mongolia and spend the northern winterin Australia. NOmadic birds follow no set paths but travel to where the best conditions prevail.
The waterfowl in Australia are highly nomadic following the rains and breeding rapidly where suitable conditions allow.

Besides the migratory birds which arrive regularly every year in Australia gets many vagrants from the Antarctic and America and Europe. There are birds that have strayed from their normal migration routes. For instance , this year many Antarctic Fulmars have been seen in Bass Strait. these birds normally winter in sub-polar seas off Antarctica and only rarely stray north.

The waders are the most prominent group of migratory birds in Australia. Most species that spend the northern winter in the Australian sun nest in Central Asia, especially in the tundra of Siberia. This area has a large range of habitats from pine forests and lakes to the open bogland called the tundra.

contd....

MIGRATORY BIRDS. contd...

Many waders that nest in one habitat in the northern summer "winter" in Australia in a completely different one. An example is the Grey-tailed Tattler which nests besides mountain streams in Siberia but which can be seen in the southern summer on mangroves in Westernport Bay.

Many studies have been done on how mograting birds navigate. the usual method used was to cage migrating birds and to find out to what natural signs they reacted. The results showed that the birds used the pattern of the stars to navigate. Tests in Planetariums showed that the birds use groups of stars and their direction in relation to each other rather than single stars to find their directions. Birds also become more experienced as they grow older. Young birds removed from normal flight paths and released, continued on in the same direction without altering their course. Older birds made the right corrections and flew towards their destination on an altered course.

Mr Loyn then showed us some slides showing the 3 main groups of migrating birds. The waders which have recently arrived in Australia for the southern summer. The commonest wader in Australia is the Red-necked Stint which is found right around the coast and throughout much of the inland. Then the sea birds of which the short-tailed Shearwater is the most prominent migrating sea bird nesting in large numbers in Bass Strait each year. As mentioned before, Australia sees many vagrants from the Antarctic each winter when Albatrosses, Petrels and Prions wander north. Lastle were some slides of the migratory landbirds such as the Rufous Fantail and the Cuckoos which migrate to and from Gippsland every year.

After the slides Mr Loyn answered several questions and was thanked by Mr Thompson for the excellent talk and slides.

BARRY TRAILL

IN SEARCH OF WADERS.

L.C.V.N.C. TRIP TO GIPPSLAND LAKES- 28th OCTOBER ,1978 .

With the promise of a glorious day ahead, 6 cars met at Lake Guthridge, Sale, for a tour through the Gippsland Lakes, led by ornithologist, Mr Richard Loyn, in search of waders.Lake Guthridge was teeming with a good variety of birds, including a group of cygnets almost fully grown, a pair of Black Ducks with 4 very young ducklings and a nesting Eastern Swamphen. There were also several species of Cormorants, various other ducks, coots, Pelicans, Reed Warblers and a pair of White faced Herons, to mentiona few others.

After a good look around Lake Guthridge there was an incident involving yours truly who, thinking I had been left behind after lingering too long at the lake, went howling off down the South Gippsland Highway looking for the rest of the party only to return and find that they had been driving around the lake!! We then headed for Lake Wellington but, unfortunately ,all roads leading to it were closed, due to the recent wet weather.

contd...

IN SEARCH OF-WADERS. contd...

Our next stop was Lake Coleman which yielded little apart from a Caspian Tern, Black Swan, Chestnut Teal, a Swamp Harrier in the distance and numerous scrub and bush birds in the surrounding ti-tree scrub.

From here we proceeded to McLennan Straits which was not much more productive except for a Crested Tern. However, on a swamp behind there was much more variety including several Emus, both Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, White and Straw-necked Ibis, White-faced Herons and Masked Lapwings(the new name for Spur-winged Plover). I should mention also that, on the way here, we passed through a wild flower paradise. Not being much of a botanist, I cannot name many but the most notable were a beautiful pink Fringe-myrtle, also Wedding Bush and Silky tea-treebeing white flowers. Blue Dampiera and for more variety in colour several species of orange and yellow pea-flowers, The pink fringe-myrtle in particular must be almost unique to the area, as I have never seen it before even though I have travelled a lot in the country. In any event, it is certainly a beautiful area which should be preserved.

Now back to the birds. It was here, beside McLennan Straits, where we stopped for lunch, that probably the most exciting find of the day came - a Striated Field Wren! a first for me at any rate. Although the bird appeared to be feeding young, we were not able to trace its nest, but just seeing the adult bird was excitement enough. The Field Wren was in low Melaleuca ti-tree type scrub interspersed with long grass. We also found in the same area a pair of White-fronted Chats feeding a chick which had left the nest and was sitting on the ground.

Our next stop was Lake Reeve, where we finally found our waders-- Red-necked Stint, Red-capped Dotteral, KNot, CurlewSandpiper and Sharp tailed Sandpiper as well as all the usual Swans, Pelicans, Plovers, Ducks etc.(including a pair ofMOuntain Duck). The rest of the day was spent here with individuals going their own separate ways - some looking for birds, others more interested in the botanical life of the area. Other finds worth mentioning were a White-breasted Sea Eagle, Japanese Snipe, yet another Striated Field Wren,Crested Tern and part of the shell of a Black Swan's egg. We finally regrouped about 5.30 pm to thank Richard for a most interesting and enjoyable day, even if we had extreme difficulty in telling the differences between some of the waders. We then made our separate ways homewards.
Some of us who happened to be returning through Sale at the roght time of day were lucky enough to see what could have been anything up to 200 Cattle Egrets coming in to roost on the island in Lake Guthridge. Many of these birds were in their buff-coloured breeding plumage but the remainder were still in their out-of-season pure white.

Jane Purbrick.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21st 1978 .

January Campout. Will be to Holmes Plain as indicated. Mr Evan Chesterfield to be the leader. Same arrangements as for last year. Map on last page of December 1977 Naturalist as the guide . We hope for good weather and no fires.

Edward Hunter Heritage Reserve Committee.
Mr Ken McDonald has been elected as our representative on this committee.

Meeting Rooms . We have arranged to meet in future at the Regional Education CentreOffices in Moe. It is a new building situated at the corner of Kirk and Haigh Streets Moe. Adequate parking available, tea making facilities and projection facilities also available. We hope the club will prosper in the new meeting place.
The meeting in January will be a Members night with slides from Members (10 slides).

Programme 1979. has been finalised and will be printed soon. It should be available for January issue of Naturalist.

Barry Traill was present at the meeting and was concerned at the bird records being made for the club. He offered to be the Club's Bird Recording Officer. An article in the Naturalist will explain his duties and how you can help in building up the records.

Cost of NaturalistDecided that it should be increased.

NOTICE OF MOTION Mr thompson moved and Mr Wall seconded a motion,

" That membership of club be raised by 50 cents and that cost of Naturalist be raised by 50 cents".
Thus Single members would pay $5.00, Family $5.50 Naturalist only $4.00

This motion to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Club.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Re the proposed T Bar extension at Mt Baw Baw. A letter has been written stating that we are concerned at the introduction of alien grasses being introduced in any mulch which may be used in the project.
Submission regarding the Alpine Study Area from C.C.V. being attended to.

Booklet about growing Native Plants published by S.G.A.P.Maroondah group is available . Cost 2.60 plus postage. Please contact Secretary if interested.

Bairnsdale F.N.C. are interested in publishing the writings of our late friend Mr Keith Rogers. The Clematis and L.V.Naturalist have had many articles by Keith over the years and it would be a wonderful way to remember him.

Please remember the supper roster for 1979. No volunteers as yet!

Next Committee meeting will be held at the home of the Thompsons Downies Lane Traralgon South on Tuesday January 16th at 7.30 pm.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'Phone 342129	7.30pm. on 4thFriday of each month, at Yallourn Primary School. YALLOURN.
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'Phone 443441	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre,Macalister Street. SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm on1st Friday each month, City Council Reception Room TRARALGON
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	MrJ.Brooks 3 Nobel Street Warragul 3320 'Phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'Phone 523792	

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Naturalist $3.50 — Family $4.50 — Single Member $4.00

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Hon.Editor, Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR 1973

Feb.	24th	Dr. B. Smith ... Marine Biology Excursion to the Waratha Bay area.
Mar.	23rd	Annual Meeting. Mr. Gaulton to speak on the Geology Aspect of his recent trip overseas as well as the trip itself. Excursion to the Morwell or Yallourn or both open cuts.
Apr.	27th	Mr. Cromer, C.S.I.R.O. Research being done re the pines-Euc. in particular in this district. A related excursion.
May	25th	Mr. & Mrs. J. Brookes ... W.A. Trip Excursion to Mt. Worth area.
June	22nd	Miss Jean Galbraith ... "In Search of flowers overseas". Fungi excursion under the leadership of Mrs. Lyndon
July	27th	Mr. McDiarmid ... Ranger Holey plain Nat. Park. Talking of improvements etc. to the Holey Plains Nat. Park. Excursion to the Park.
Aug.	24th	Mr. Ringin ... "Along the Gun Barrel Highway" Excursion to Edward Hunter Reserve & then along Willow Grove Road (Wildflowers).
Sept.	28th	Mr. Max Yardey to speak on Bird Atlas etc. A related excursion to the Heyfield Area.
Oct.	13th	EXTRA EXCURSION Mrs. Lyndon to organise an excursion so that we join with her Sth. Gipps. Conserv. Group.
Oct.	26th	Mr. & Mrs. O. Thompson "Orchids" A related excursion to the Cowarr area.
Nov.	23rd	A speaker on Mammals. An excursion spotlighting.
Dec.	15th	Christmas break up ...Moondarra Dam
January	camp out	to Lankey Plain.

Protect and enjoy

JANUARY, 1979
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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday January 19th
Members Night 10 mins per person

EXCURSION: Join L.V.F.N.C. Campout

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday January 19th
Members NIght 10 slides per person
Mr Ringin will show historical slides

This will be the first meeting in new rooms at REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTRE, KIRK St. MOE.

EXCURSION: Campout January 27,28, 29.
Holmes Plain, Mt HOwitt Rd. Map published December 1977.
Follow Tamboritha Road past St Paul's camp, and continue past the junction of Moroka and Howitt roads at Mt Arbuckle.
Keep on the Howitt Rd for about 4 km and then take a small road off to the left a short distance to the camp site.
Roads will be signposted. Heres hoping for good weather.

TRARALGON F.N.C. No details available

BIRD RECORDING PROJECT

I have been recently appointed " Bird Recording Officer" for the L.V.F.N.C. My job will be to collect bird lists in Central Gippsland and to use these records to answer any enquiries put to the Club about birds in the area. To obtain a comprehensive cover of all the birds I need as many people as possible to send me their bird lists.

I aim to organise the recordings in the same way as the R.A.O.U. Bird Atlas. for those not familiar with the project it means sending in lists for each 10 minute block visited. Each degree block which is one degree of latitude high by one degree of longtitude wide is divided into 36 of these 10 minute blocks. To give the reference point you write down the centre point of the block. For example Morwell is in the block 38deg 15 min S, 146 deg25 min E, while Traralgon is in 38 deg 15 min S, 146 deg 35 min E. If you can obtain a map with Latitude marked in, such as the Reader's Digest Complete Atlas of Australia, it becomes much clearer.

As the main aim of the project is to collect records for the Club's use I only want records from Central and Southern Gippsland, from Warragul to Bairnsdale and from the Divide to the Coast.

Whether a bird breeds in an area or not is important when considering its preservation. Therefore it is most important that as many breeding records as possible are sent in. A bird sitting consistently on a nest, a nest with eggs or young or a young bird still being fed by its parents can all be counted as confirmation of breeding when sending in lists, simply put an asterisk next to breeding birds.

If you live in a block and keeo a list or visit a block often, send in a bird list forevery season. eg. September to November. If you are visiting a block for a shorter period of time or if it is simply a day visit write down the arrival and departure dates.

It is not necessary to record the numbers of birds sighted unless you think the sighting is a very unusual one. simply write down the common names of the species sighted in each 10 minute block visited, put down an asterisk beside the breeding species and put down dates when the species were recorded. If you cannot figure out the grid references of the area you visit, put down the closest town to the area or its position in relation to a town (eg. area 10 miles north of Glenmaggie on Licola road.)

I hope I haven't scared everyone off with these detailed instructions but it is a worthwhile project from which all of us, and especially the birds will benefit. I will write a summary of the sightings every year in the Naturalist, but I will be glad to show any people the lists recorded if they would like to see them. To start I will take lists only from as far back as last spring, which has just ended. To be successful the project needs as many people as possible contributing. So please, send those lists in to BARRY TRAILL

99 VINCENT Road MORWELL 3840

PLANT CLASSIFICATION

Address by Mr E.Chesterfield24/11/78

Mr Evan Chesterfield, who addressed our November meeting, has had his thesis accepted for his Master of Forest Science by the University of Melbourne. The thesis was "A Study of the Plant Communities in the Catchment of the Glenmaggie Reservoir". In his study Mr Chesterfield spent 3 years in the catchment area which occupies 1,890 sq. Km. The vegetation study consists of two parts. "Part 1. covers the theoretical and practical consideration of sampling and analysis, the development of suitable large scale survey procedures and their application towards the recognition of community types using multivariate analysis" Part 2. considers the relationship between community types, their composition, structure and where possible, the factors which influence their distribution".

Mr Chesterfield's address to the club was a discussion of the procedures in part one. Classification is defining groups or classes of plants that are distinctly separate or different from each other so that patterns in the environment can be detached and information recorded. There are two main types of classification of vegetation patterns - namely structural and floristic. The structural vegetation pattern is produced by the differences in density and height of foliage of the dominant stratum, that is trees, shrubs and herbs. The floristic vegetation pattern is produced by differences in the species composition of the area under review.

In 1970 a structural classification of vegetatuon for the australian environment was proposed by Professor Specht and others as, until that time, no classification system existed that was suitable for Australian conditions; although much work had been done in Europe. Specht's classification - as it is commonly called - is a commencement and not an ultimate classification and will be challenged and changed over the years; but there is a starting point.
Already the Forests Commission of Victoria and the Land Conservation Council have found it advisable to modify Specht's classification by further dividing the height divisions to the following table of the dominant stratum:- greater than 75 metres High OPen Forest; 40-75metres Tall Open Forest;28-40 Open Forest1; 15-28 OPen Forest2; 9-15 metres Low OPen Forest; 2-9 Open Scrub;0-2 OPen Heath; less than 2 metres is grassland and herbland. Each of the above subdivisions are further divided by density of the foliage cover into - greater than 70%;70-30% and less than 30%. this density subdivision is very broad and could be further considered with a view to more detail being added.

The floristic classification can be divisive (by division) or agglomerative (grouping together). Divisive systems commence with the whole population ofplants in an area and divide it into groups on the basis of difference. Agglomerative systems commence with the individual species and fuse them into groups according to their similarities. Both methods have disadvantages. Much work has been done on these types of classifications in Europe where there are many workers in small areas but the thinkings in European classifications are not always appropriate to Australia with its limited number of workers and its vast expanses.

contd.....pp3

PLANT CLASSIFICATION contd....

After 30 years of disagreement between the supporters of these two methods of floristic classification, it is now accepted that the methods are complimentary to each other.

Mr Chesterfield dealt with the techniques of traditional classification by detecting or emphasising the continuity or the discontinuity of the patterns of species.

These methods of classification rely heavily on computers to sort the information collected. The information is fed into the computer and then a program to provide the collation the researc officer needs is prepared. The programme is then fed into the computer and, if the programme is correct, the required information is printed out by the computer. The print-out can be in the form of words or diagrams according to the programme requirements. The programme can enable the computer to put similar sites together or record the differences in similar sites or provide any other information required. The computer can provide information sorted out from the collected materials in a comparatively short space of time; while it would take a research officer years and years to achieve the same results.

Problems with sampling were dealt with and finally Mr Chesterfield explained how he collected his sampling on a broad scale rather than in individual plots. The individual plot method meant much passing through areas where plants were not recorded and this seemed a waste of time and possible information. The method finally evolved was while in a similar area with the same stratum then all species were recorded for that stratum. However when a change occured then a new list was commenced for the new stratum and again everything was recorded. It was clear to all of us that this method of sampling was a distinct improvement on the previous plot method for Australian conditions.

We realise that not only did Mr Chesterfield collect an enormous amount of information; but he also prepared his own computer cards and programmes - certainly a mammoth task over all.

Bon Thompson

BLUE WRENS.

These little birds are very tame around the garden and come in to be fed with cheese. they are very possessive if we have termites to feed to them.

One day I killed a March Fly and let it drop to the ground. A little wren dived in and picked it up. So I tried again and they were quite happy to eat the March Fly if I caught it but made no attempt to catch one for themselves.

Then we caught some White Cabbage Moths and the same thing happened. The Blue Wrens will pick a small moth off the wall of the house if it is settled but I have never seen them try to catch a Cabbage Moth. Yet if you feed one to them there is no hesitation about eating it.

Bon Thompson.

A DAY IN THE PARK

"Lo, here has been dawning another blue day
Think! Will you let it slip useless away."

The last monday in September was so perfect that I decided to pay a visit to my favorite National Park. Collecting Ranger Jim and Rangeress Thelma plus some sandwiches we wended our waydown the gully.

Just inside the cleared park boundary line a bulldozed swathe has been cut through the timber of the hillside, the idea being to later burn the narrow strip between. This is a very sensible precaution and I approve it, save for the fact that all the trees and slash have been tipped downhill into the body of the park, not into the proposed burnable break. Possibly this is the work of that same (expletive deleted) driver who carved a great slash out of the creek banks at the junction, thereby obliterating a whole colony of scarce Lady-ferns.

One of the Ranger's first jobs was to clear the main track of all the snow-damaged brush that obscured it, and this he did rather generously. Some of us admitted to qualms when we first saw it. We need not have worried. The scars have now healed and the widegrassy verges are most delightfully bordered with the two species of Greenhoods in flower, as well as large drifts of Helmet leaves. They appreciate the extra light. The Maroon-hood is there but not so plentiful as a blunt green and white one which I at first place took to be P.curta.
On reflection I'm pretty sure it is the Alpine Greenhood, P. alpina. I'd forgotten the tongue is dark and twisted in P.curta.

At a bend in the track we came upon a large Goanna, apparently shedding his skin, for his jumper was rolled down below his armpits. Deciding discretion was the better part of valor he took to a tree. We noticed that one hind foot was almost useless and that he was awkwardly climbing only on the other three.

My main reason for going over was to try and locate our rarest fern which we had missed on the day we had Prof. Turner with us. The gully is no longer easy to ascend, due to fallen debris from last year's snow and storms. It was under one of these avalanches that the lost one was found, such a tiny colony. With luck it may survive.

We ate our lunches in a little clearing while a curious Wedge-tailed eagle sailed round and round on the updraught above. All the birds were in good form, like us, enjoying the rare sunshine. I learned with some dismay that the black dog has returned from his holidays.

Due to the very wet winter the Pittosporums are black with sooty mould, but this should clear up with the advent of warmer weather. Trudging back, against the light, I thought the creek walk had never looked more beautiful than on this bright and windless day. Each curve of the path revealed a lovlier vista. Never do I leave this park without a great feeling of satisfaction that our combined efforts to preserve it were successful. Besides, it was a sheer joy to be out on such a day, made all the more enjoyable by good companions.

Ellen Lyndon

THE WANDERER BUTTERFLIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

On the 25th August 1977, we erected our tents on the private property of a Doctor living near Byford, about 40 kilometres south of Perth in the Darling Ranges. It was a beautiful sheltered spot in a dis-used quarry with a fast flowing creek nearby. But have you ever tried to hammer plastic, or for that matter, even steel pegs, in a dis-used quarry? . The plastic pegs cracked and the steel ones bent, so finally I fixed my tent ropes around pieces of rock which I placed around the tent. One had to be careful at night however -- rock is very hard on the toes!

Late that afternoon I could not resist exploring the surrounding area. Walking along the creek, I came to a grassy spot where many Dryandras were in flower, and you can imagine my surprise when I saw a Wanderer butterfly hovering over them. I was close enough to see through my field glasses that the butterfly looked really worn out, and its tattered wings started me thinking about winter trees.During the winter Wanderers usually have winter tree places where they hang like leaves and only flutter around in the warmest part of the day -- in the spring time they come to life again. I crossed the creek and climbed up the steep hill, but no luck, plenty of trees but not the wanted winter tree.

The next day in brilliant sunshine, I decided to look again in the same area. This time there were two Wanderers on the Dryandras and I was able to take a photograph of one feeding on the yellow flower; and later in the afternoon, another photograph of one feeding on a white rice flower (Pimelea). This last butterfly was a beautiful specimen,but a young butterfly at that time of the year was something of a puzzle! On the way "home" I found in another dis-used quarry, a swanplant, or let me say the remnants of a swanplant as it was completely stripped of its leaves. Had the leaves been eaten by caterpillars or did something else like their bitter taste? Usually at this time of the year caterpillars are leaving the swanplantsto change into their pupae but there was nothing to be found in the whole of the quarry.

That evening the doctor came to visit and when I told him of my Monarch problem, he was very interested and offered to take us over his property in his big Range Rover. On this sort of terrain that was a fantastic opportunity, so the next day accompanied by some of his family we set off,and I was told to call "STOP" as soon as I saw something I wanted to investigate. We went over narrow bush tracks, some of them partly washed away and deeply rutted- no other car could ever cross this type of country and little wonder I fell in love with the Range Rover. Coming down a steep slope, I suddenly spotted a group of plants that looked like swan plants, so I yelled "STOP" and did he stop! Doctors foot came down fast on the brake and only the safety belts prevented us from going "en masse" through the windscreen. We all jumped out and at the same time two beautiful Wanderers arouse from the clump of swanplant. Not only were the butterflies there but also caterpillars of all sizes and even the jewell-like pupae hanging on blackberry bushes nearby.

The Doctor's youngest daughter loved the caterpillars from first sight and had them crawling all over her hands. She begged her Daddy to be allowed to take them home - another problem to be solved. I explained to her that the tiny caterpillars were very particular in their eating habits and could only eat the leaves of the swanplants.

contd...pp6

WANDERER BUTTERFLIES contd...

I was sure the Doctor did not have a supply of swanplant in his garden and explained that Daddy was too busy to go to the bush every day for fresh leaves for her caterpillar pets. Fortunately I discovered some "swans" of last year, the seed pods of which dry up and sometimes still contain a lot of black seeds attached to their white, silky parachutes. That then was the solution - the little girl was to take some seeds home and plant them in her garden, and later on when the plants were big enough maybe a wanderer butterfly would find them and lay her eggs. If not, daddy would know the place where the tiny caterpillars could be found.

For me too the puzzle was solved. What I had not realised was, that in Western Australia the Wanderers are already active in August, while in Victoria they are not seen before December, and in some years not seen at all.

But we Victorians still have a great puzzle to solve - where are our Wanderer butterflies in the winter? . Somewhere there must be one or more winter trees - maybe we will find them some day.

Bart Sterkenburg.

There was no Committee Meeting in December, but the Secretary has passed a few things on for publication.

A card was received from Mrs Jessie Burns who is enjoying a holiday in Europe and England . Hope she is not too cold there . The card was from Los Angeles en route.

Details of a trip to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) have been received. This is a tour for Bird Observers with Jack Hyett as the leader. Tour starts on May 25th for 18 days, full details from Secretary.

A book available for birdos is free from I.C.I Australia Limited . P.O.Box 4311, Melbourne, 3001.

It is called "BIRDS OF A SALTFIELD" by R.P.Cooper. It contains 62 pages with knowledgeable text and photographs.

This is an opportunity too good to miss so write straight away.

Another book of interest is the C.C.V.RECIPE BOOK. Copies available from the centre 324 william Street Melbourne, 3000 Cost $ 2.00.

An article on page 11 of C.C.V.Newsletter extends an invitation for people to visit the Library and browse through the books, papers, reports etc at the centre.

NOTICE OF MOTION. re the increase of cost of Naturalist.

Mr Thompson moved and Mr Wall seconded that " Membership of club be raised by 50 cents and cost of Naturalist raised by 50 cents. Thus single members would pay $5.00, Family $5.50 Naturalist only $4.00

This motion to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of L.V.F.N.C.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm. on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00pm. on1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre, Macalister Street . SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month , at L.V. Educational Service Building ,Traralgon (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer — Mr C.Lester, 61 Strzelecki Rd. YALLOURN 3838

Naturalist $3.50 — Family $4.50 — Single Member $4.00

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club. Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to: Hon. Editor, Mrs L.Padfield, 99 Chamberlain Rd. NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday February 16th Illustrated Talk "Central Australia" Mr &Mrs Hore, Mr&Mrs Pierrehumbert.

This meeting is also the ANNUAL MEETING

EXCURSION	Sunday February 18th Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday February 24th
SPEAKER	Dr B.Smith "Marine BIology"
EXCURSION	Saturday February 25th to the Waratah Bay area
MEETING PLACE	Meeniyan at 10.00 am

A reminder that we have a new meeting place for meetings. The Regional Education Centre Buildings Kirk and Haigh St MOe.

TRARALGON F.N.C. No details known

V.F.N.C.A. Campout March 10,11,12. The hosts are the F.N.C.V.

Saturday afternoon to be a Geology excursion around Melbourne led by Mr Dan McInnes. Sunday a trip to the Dandenongs. Dr Willis to be guest speaker at the evening meeting on Saturday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr and Mrs John McRae on the birth of a daughter in December. We look forward to meeting her.

THE SHANNON RISE.

At the excursion to Bennison Plains it was noticed that many adult Caddis Flies were sheltering in the vegetation along Shaw's Creek. Adult Caddis Flies are small moth-like insects with scaled wings and long fine antennae. Their larvae are aquatic. Most of the Caddis Fly species larvae build cases out of plant material and other debriswhich provide them with camouflage and protection. A few species which live in fast flowing streams build traps out of silk facing upstream. The larvae feed on any animals or plant material which are swept into the net.

This was the first time I have seen adult Caddis Flies and it reminded me of a story I had recently read concerning Caddis Flies. The Shannon River in Central Tasmania had for many years a mass pupation of adult Caddis Flies every November. Trout would be attracted by the dozens to feast on the emerging insects and consequently the "Shannon Rise", as it was called became an annual attraction to trout fisherman all over the world. The rise first started in 1922 when a dam caused the river to widen improving conditions for the Caddis Flies and incidentally causing the increase in populations of both trout and trout-fishermen every November when the Caddis Flies emerged.

The insect which created these events was called the /Snowflake Caddis, its description closely resembling those seen at Shaw's Creek. In a good year on the Shannon the Caddis Flies were so thick that it was impossible to see across the 20 metre wide river. Once they had emerged from the water the Caddis Flies enjoyed but a brief adult life. The males lived about 20 minutes while the females survived only a few seconds, mating , laying their eggs and usually being drowned or smothered moments later by the mass of males around her.

The Shannon Rise though was only temporary. In 1963 a Hydro-electric scheme reduced the river to a trickle destroying the conditions which allowed the Caddis Flies to prosper.

Barry Traill

A SHORT VISIT TO SALVATOR ROSA NATIONAL PARK (QUEENSLAND)

When we reached Tambo we remembered that Salvator Rosa National Park was in the vicinity.. about 60 miles for crows, and 120 miles for conventional vehicles. After enquiries we finally found one of the two locals who had visited the park..a garage man cum bore sinker. He was enthusiastic about the area and said that as the weather was dry we should get there, so laid in stores and informed the POlice who remarked that it was a lonely road out there.

It was a fine sunny afternoon with a clear sky as we set off along 8 miles of sealed road through light forest of eucalypts and cypruss pine and then on toa dirt road, inparts sandy through more light forest, sometimes steep, rutted and gravelly down into creek beds, then many miles along a grassy watershed of the Great Dividing Range. From this grassy ridge views to the North ever rolling grassy hills and to the South across a river valley to spectacular coloured cliffs and peaks.

contd.....pp2

SALVATOR ROSA NATIONAL PARK contd...

Road conditions were such that travel was at best 25 mph. A dingo crossed the road and we saw hawks, magpies, galahs and wedge-tailed/ eagles. 80 miles from Tanbo we crossed the Claude River at a concrete crossing with only a few inches of water over it and camped for the night. Nearby was a large ant mound with well defined tracks running off into the dry grass under sparse eucalypt cover. In the soft mud by the river were kangaroo, pig and cattle footprints.

Next morning - still fine and sunny - we drove in through the dingo proof gate to Cungelella station property. Then many more mile s ofslow travelling on a dirt track until we reached the homestead. Here, like the garage man, they told us that cars and caravans had been into the park, but we might have trouble past their fourth gate and at a "suspension" fence 2 miles from the park boundary, but we could camp on their property.The owner also told us that the last 25 miles had been a road and we were now to go onto a track. How right he was! The next 9 miles took us 5 hours to negotiate. We had to find ways around wet bogs, over stony ridges, through high grass along river flats where emus were feeding, and dig our way out of sand and up sandy rises, as well as squeeze between trees until finally stopped by a creek crossing near the suspension fence.

At one gully crossing where we came over a rise we came on a mob of Pied Butcher Birds mobbing and pecking at a small green parrot. Along the flats were White-faced Herons, WEdge-tailed Eagles, and the Emus. After we had manouvred the van off the track in case anyone should wish to go by overnight-- only wild pigs and dingoes went by -- we walked on into the park. A fine lot of birds along the way.. white Cockatoos, Willy WAgtails, a Tree Creeper, Mudlarks , Happy Jacks, Noisy Miners, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Yellow Rosellas, MAgpies and Rufous Whistlers. A short distance inside the park boundary were fine camping spots beside a sandy crossing at the Nogoa River.

Next morning the sky was overcast but we packed lunch and walked in to the park. Paddled through the river and walked on through open forest of eucalypts and cypruss pine with occasional prickly pear trees. There were sandy ridges with glimpses of cattle and wild pigs and views to cliffs and rock formations. One of these a huge smooth rock with a hole right through the top - Spyglass Rock. Around its base were a few small wildflowers- Blue Pincushions (Brunonia australis) two different Wahlenbergias, a Pimelia, small Everlastings, a white Daisy Bush, and some small rushes. Two wattles were flowering and there were a few Bottle Trees. Along one part of the track as we walked further into the park were areas of Calytrix bushes with odd ones flowering. Noisy Miners, Happy Jacks and Pied Currawongs were seen and heard.

On one rocky rise we thought we heard wind in the trees but there was nomovement in the branches. The noise was a spring of water gushing out from a rock below us and cascading down a ferny gully to green flats.

contd.... pp3

SALVATOR ROSA NATIONAL PARK contd...

Small shrubs and purple wild violets grew among the ferns, and Grey Fantails, Black Tree-creepers, Yellow Robins, a GoldenWhistler, Willy Wagtails, Ducks and White Cockatoos were all enjoying the rich area. There were many more springs and soaks over a considerable area, many of them covered with an Azolla, and most of them along the side of the ridge. Pigs were wallowing and browsing and cattle grazing on the lush growth of the valley floor. these were the"Springs"which Major Mitchell used as his depot for exploration of the surrounding area and these fed into the Nogoa River.

As we walked back to the park boundary, Pelicans flew downstream a and we saw Emus, Kangaroos and Wallabies. There were trees which had the bark removed possibly for use by the original inhabitants. All day the clouds had been thickening and there had been light rain showers so we decided to leave and try to head for civilization. Progress was slightly quicker driving out as we had our own tracks from the previous day to follow and there were not too many bogging episodes. By nightfall we were back to the homestead where they advised us to drive as far out towards the all weather road to Springsure as possible and not to attempt to climb back up the divide to Tambo as the weather was coming from that direction. So we raced out against thickening rain and into the dark until a shower so heavy and the road surface so gluey that we had to stop in the middle of the road for the night.

By morning the rain had eased and there was a drying wind so we were able to move and eventually reached the all weather road. Salvator Rosa is a lovely place but our advice to intending visitors is to be sure they use 4WD vehicles for as that policeman said "It's a lonely road out there." We were able to ring him two days later to let him know that we'd been safely in and out.

E.P BREWSTER

MEMBERS NIGHT 19/1/79

Mr Faubel, President of the Moe Historical Society screened a film showing the beauty and early history of McDonald's Track. Some beautiful scenes of the track from Childers to Thorpdale as it would have been seen by travellers in the early days.Tall Trees, Fauna and Flora, B-llock waggons, sulkies, horses and carts of all description, children riding horses to school, old homesteads, old shops, halls and several churches. A series taken of Mr and Mrs Gunn's Diamond Wedding anniverary was very touching, the wedding originally took place at one of the churches.

The site along McDonald's Track where the tallest tree in the world - a mere 375 ft. once stood is now marked by a monument unveiled by Mr Balfour in 1976 to commemorate the Thorpdale Centenary. Mr Auchterlonie and Mr Lyndon were seen among the many who attended.

contd....pp4

MEMBERS NIGHT contd...

Other slides showed the farms as they are today, prosperous, with plenty of new machinery etc. The trees planted long ago so tall and flowering brilliantly.

We then saw a section in which Mr Bob Auchterlonie greeted our travellers at the gate and showed them around his beautiful garden, Miss Grace sitting admiring it also.This brought back such lovely memories for many members, as we too have been shown around in just the same manner.

The underlying theme of the film is the beauty of the area before settlement, showing many tall trees , ferns, and many varieties of wildflowers and wildlife including the many birds in the area.

The high rainfall of the area, the steep hills and deep gullies, the dense undergrowth and tall trees didn't make for easy clearing.

With grim determination it was cleared and farmers prospered.

The film when completed will be a reminder of McDonald's Track original beauty and a fitting tribute to the early pioneers who endured such hardship and heartbreak in those early years.

First of our members to show slides was Mrs Padfield who had some excellent slides of the Glaciers of Alaska, a perfect sunset, Indian Totem POle and an Indian Cemetery with its Totem POles.

Mr McElroy's choice was a beautiful arrangement of N.S.W.Waratahs picked from Mr Auchterlonies gardes for our wildflower show and another of the Waratahs actually growing. A slide taken at Wyperfeld NAt. Park showing the Mallee Fowl and the environment, this brought back memories of the day in the desert, dry sand bogged the car and then he locked the keys of the car in the boot!! It must have been quite a day!

Mr Adams showed a selection starting with a closeup of a Sun-dew several slides of flowers, a particularly nice one of the Kangaroo Appleshowing flowers and fruit.A very interesting slide of a spider was shown, a bird dropping spider looked very like the real thing.

Mr and Mrs Thompsons selection was of the Lily family of which there are 3700, we only saw a few not one looking alike the other. WE saw that the Grass Tree so tall and the small Sky Lily of the Alpine area were related.Would you connect the Lomandra with the beautiful Fringe Lily, and Chocolate Lily in the same family ?

A slide of Euc. species with bark eaten off in places was the result of Sugar Glidersusing that tree. A family offour baby Blue Wrens sitting on a bough, one too shy to face the camera was a gem The other bird photo was of a Thornbill with its nest built in a Cow's slull and using the eye hole as a front door!! We saw this on one of our excursions.

Mr Sterkenburg explained that on the campout to Mt BAw BAw he was determined to photograph the Baw BAw Frog, he photographed almost every frog seen in all situations, large ones and small ones , green, brown and multicoloured . We saw him sitting ,lying crawling and getting very wet in his attempt . But the Baw Baw Frog was not there. Better luck next time BArt..

To conclude a very interesting evening BArt showed a few candid shots of members on the various excursions ..we should be warned when these shots are being taken !! We'll get even with you one day Bart!!!

Iris Peterson.

NOTES FROM LAKES ENTRANCE, extract from a letter

The Potoroos are still about, although I seldom see any until late in the day. I mostly put out parrot-seed mix now, as the magpies don't monopolize that. But one evening a wallaby cleaned it all up, before having a drink from the tiny pool made for smaller creatures.

Two years ago Mr John Seebeck and a girl assistant from Fisheries and Wildlife came and set box traps. The first evening netted three potoroos, which were placed in the garage, given apples(moisture as well as food) and their cage traps covered with a bag. Next round one Whipbird and one common bush-rat.The bait in each trap is a mixture ofoatmeal, peanut butter and honey tied like a tiny plum pudding in a fragment of mosquito netting or similar. The whipbird of course, was used to finding food on or below the bird tray, but how did it know this bait was food? must have smelled it,surely.

In the morning there was another bush rat and potoroo, plus a baby long nosed bandicoot. This last one puzzled me too, for we never see bandicoots come for food. It seems they must be strictly nocturnal feeders?

The four potoroos were all weighed and measured in various places length of foot - jaw, tail, and maybe ears too, before having ears tagged ad freed. The one female had a tiny joey attached to one of the nipples in her pouch. The other nipple was still producing milk, so an older youngster must have still been having milk in his diet.

During the following two or three weeks we saw three of the potoroos coming for food at the usual spot. But did not see the fpurth again. He was an old male with tattered ears and scratched hide. Perhaps being trapped hurt his dignity!

Each year there is a period of several months beginning about mid December, when we don't see the animals. My theory is that they move down to lower ground where it is damper and their normal food more plentiful.

JOy Johnstone.

NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTIONS ON OPPOSITE SIDE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 16th 1979

Decided that the December 1979 Christmas breakup be held at the property of Mr and Mrs Ringin at Caalville. It was so enjoyable in 1978 and the invitation was offered just too late to be included in 1979 programme.

Repairs to Duplicator. Some people may have noticed that their Naturalist could have been better printed. This was due to a defect in the inking system. Mr ringin has obtained spare parts and will do the work himself. We hope for good results in the future.

Advised of the campout of the F.N.C.V.A. March 10, 11, to be held at Doncaster near Melbourne. Full details from Secretary if you are interested in going to all or part of the programme.

Mr J.Wall has given the club a projector which can be used at meetings.

Meeting Room . All arrangements made for meeting in the new premises at Moe. The outside door must be locked while the meeting is in progress as we are the only people in the building. This is a special condition of the Education Department. A notice has been printed and will be placed near the door for late comers to ring the bell and wait to be let in. We are sorry if this causes any difficulty for some people.

We were sorry to learn of the death of a one time member Mr Van den eijde He was a very keen member for several years . Mr Ringin attended a memorial service held in Moe recently.

ELections. The positions available for election at the Annual Meeting are President Mr Sterkenburg Wishes to retire.

Vice President Mr Moretti

Treasurer Mr Lester

Correction The article on page 2 of L.V.Naturalist October 1978 par.4 should have said ½cup water to soak seeds.

Next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Miss Jean Galbraith on Tuesday February 20th 1979 at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster February 24th MRS McElroy Mrs Lubcke

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE

I wish to nominate.....
of .....for the position of
.....of this club.

Proposer.....

Seconder .....

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office

.....

The secretary would like nominations before Annual Meeting if possible.

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Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB	HON SECRETARY	MEETINGS
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm. on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00pm. on1st Friday each month, Regional Arts Centre, Macalister Street . SALE
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month , at L.V. Educational Service Building ,Traralgon (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street Bairnsdale 3875 'phone 523792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer — Mr C.Lester, 61 Strzelecki Rd. YALLOURN 3838

Naturalist $3.50 — Family $4.50 — Single Member $4.oo

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MARCH, 1979
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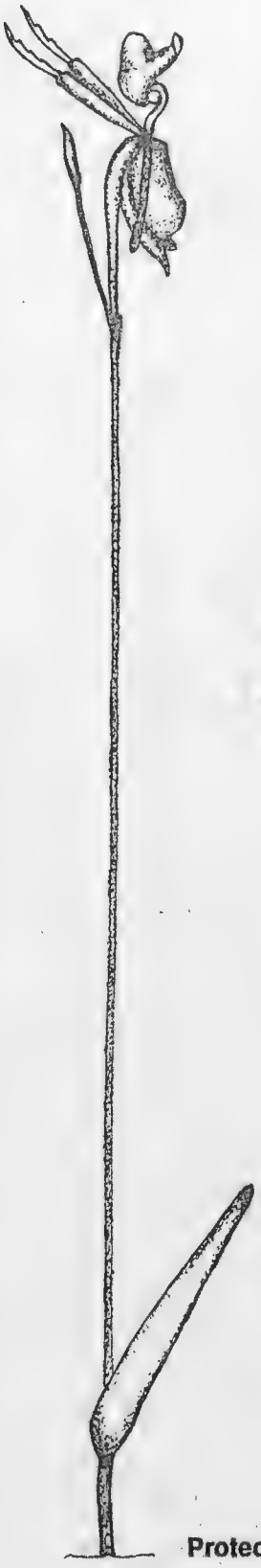

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday MARCH 16TH
SPEAKER:	Mr Doug Clark "Gould League activities"
EXCURSION:	Sunday March 18th Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.:

MEETING:	Friday March 23rd.
SPEAKER:	Mr R.Gaulton " Geology , in particular, a recent overseas visit"
EXCURSION:	Saturday MArch 24th Yallourn and Morwell Open Cut.
MEETING PLACE:	Yallourn POst Office at 9.30 am

TRARALGON F.N.C. No details available

SALE F.N.C. Meeting place now at the Continuing Education Centre , Room 13.

OF WRENS 'N' THINGS.

I enjoyed reading Bon Thompson's interesting notes on the habits of the blue wrens in her garden (Naturalist Jan '79)

I was reminded of what was to me, an interesting incident with wrens in November.

We were fishing(unsuccessfully) at the Burnt Bridge, out from Lakes Entrance, and seeking a better spot, walked along the bank and through a tussocky patch of ground where I noticed three young wrens fluttering and clinging to the tussock stems.

Stopping to watch the antics of these bob-tailed, wobbly little youngsters I suddenly became aware of four mature blue capped birds deliberately and vogourously flaunting themselves only two or three feet away and setting up quite a commotion in their efforts to distract my attention from the young.

Standing still and admiring the courage and devotion of these tiny birds I then had the pleasure of seeing the female division go into action.

Three females ran across the track over open , short grass in a plain invitation to predators, attempting to distract attention from the babies.

They ran in most un-wren like posture , with their backs humped, wings and tails trailing, and looking for all the world like little brown mice runinng through the grass.

Upon my failure to move, they repeated this manouvre a couple of times, always running away from the fluttering youngsters in the tussocks.

As I watched I couldn't help but marvel at the gallantry and bravery of these tiny creatures.

I wonder how many of us humans would react in a similar way if confronted with giants ?

Also I noted in Jane Purbrick's article in the Naturalist(Dec 78) the fact that the bird we've always aknown as the "Spur-winged Plover" has now become the "Masked Lapwing"

To me, this is a sad thing. The ghost of John Masefield will no doubt be revolving and bang goes a family " in-joke "

Ah well! I guess it's no worse than decimal currency change, when now that fine old phrase " a round or two for a pound or two " becomes " a round or two for two dollars or four "

Andy Ringin.

Some of our members have been on the sick list recently.

Mr Eric LUbcke is recovering from an operation, hope you are feeling yourself again Eric.

Two ladies unwell have been Mrs Ringin and Mrs McElroy. We hope you both will soon be brighter.

NORTH QUEENSLAND TRIP WITH V.F.N.C.

Twenty two members including ourselves flew to Airlie Beach near Proserpine where accomodation had been arranged for us. The change in the weather was remarkable, from bitter cold to very warm. A boat trip was arranged to visit Hook, South Molle and Daydream Islands.
The coral reef was viewed from glass bottomed boats and coral such as Brain Coral (Platygyai laneluna) Mushroom Coral (Fungia) Staghorn (Acropora hebes) Fan and Fern corals with their delicate branching patterns, giant clams, fish of many sizes brilliantly coloured were seen. A huge fish namely the Maori wrasse which attains the weight of 80 pounds was seen through the port holes of the underwater observatory on Hook Island which is situated on the edge of the reef.
On South MOlle Island amongst other birds we saw Rainbow Lorikeets, Pied Currawongs and Kookaburras feeding freely from trays on a bench, we also observed Beach Curlews on Daydream Island. Of all the islands we visited, Happy Bay on Long Island was the most natural and the least commercialised, and on the walks we did on this particular island we observed the following birds. Brush Turkey, Scrub Fowl, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Green-winged Pigeon, Silver Gull, Spur-winged Plover, White Ibis, White Egret, White-faced Heron, Grey Duck, Pelican, Fork-shouldered Kite, the Osprey, White Cockatoo, Tawny Frogmouth, Golden Bronze Cuckoo, Welcome Swallow, White-breasted Swallow, Wood Swallow, Rufous Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher,Black-faced Cuckoo shrike, Magpie Lark. the Grey shrike Thrush, Mistletoe Bird, Dusky Honeyeater, Lewin Honeyeater, Helmeted Friar Bird, Southern Fig Bird, Crow, Yellow breasted Sun Bird, Silver Eye,also the Stone Curlew. This was the best island for bird observing. Growing in abundance were H.biscus, Poinciana, Coconut and Pandanus Palms, Tulip Tree, Lantana vines and numerous ferns.

One day wewere taken to the wildlife Sanctuary at Airlie Beach which is situated in a landscaped bushland setting and native fauna is running free. The highlight of this trip was to see the Blue-winged Kookaburra which differs from the Victorian counterpart by its blue wing and inability to laugh. this was another good spot for bird watchers. OUr party chartered a bus to see the near areas of Airlie Beach. NEar Canonvale we saw the "Sausage Tree" (Kigalkia pinnata) this tree has a fruit in the shape of a sausage approximately 2 feet in length and hangs from the branches on long stems. This tree is a native of Tropical Africa and is regarded as sacred by the Nubian tribe. WE then visited Cedar Creek Falls where the waterfall drops down in the midst of palms and rain forest which are embossed with Staghorn and Elkhorn Ferns and Orchids. In some of the trees could be seen hanging from a branch the la large rounded nest of the Green Tree Ants.These nests are composed of leaves drawn and cemented together in a remarkable way.
At Conway Beach we saw Egrets, Reef Heron, Curlews and Sooty Oyster Catchers, also we observed an army of soldier crabs (Mictyris longicarpus) scuttling across the sand and burying themselves with amazing speed.

contd.....pp 3

NORTH QUEENSLAND TRIP WITH V.F.N.C. contd...

At Shute Harbour revisited the Lions Lookout and were able to enjoy the magnificent views of the Whitsunday Passage and Islands. We visited Mandalay Coral Gardens where live coral is being grown above sea level inponds, and we also saw a full colour documentary on the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef. Afterwards we spent time in the Dittmer Nurseries near Proserpine and saw the Umbrella Tree, NorthQueensland Blue Gum, Rose flooded Gum Eucalyptus grandis Strangler Fig,also the Crucifix Orchid and Passion Flower (Passiflora alba). Near the nursery is an old abandoned gold mine which we fossicked in. On our way back to Airlie Beach the setting sun made the cane fields look like a sea of silver , this ended our first week of the holiday.

On Sunday morning we left for Eungella National Park which is situated 2500 feet above the Pioneer Valley. The park covers an area of 49615 ha.and is shaped roughly like a minature South America. Various walking track systems exist in the park south of Eungella township and magnificent views of Pioneer Valley and the cane fields can be seenfrom various lookouts on the range. In the school grounds which skirted the edge of the rain forest we saw Brush Turkey, Purple-crowned Pigeon, Brown Pigeon, Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, King Parrot, Rainbow Bird, Pheasant Coucal, Willie Wagtail, Varied Triller, Brown Thornbill Silvereye, Golden Whistler, Northern Yellow Robin, Eastern Spinebill, and in all its glory the Regent Bower Bird. ON one of the walks in the rain forestwe were fortunate to have withus the forest ranger, Mr Veron Hansen to accompany us and explain the jungle type growth which consists of tree ferns, orchids, massive gums and cedars, various vines and fungi, he also mentionedthat botanists visit from all over the world to this oarticular area because of the merging vegetation of north and south. IN the Broken River a Platypus was seen looking for food, and in the picnic ground near by, Pied Butcher Birds, Pied Currawongs and Kookaburras were tame enough to feed by hand. Leeches , some striped brown and white about 2 ins. long and mosquitos also inhabit the place much to our discomfort.At Eungella Dam we saw Rock Wallabies leaping about the dam wall to the delight of us all.Every morning we were enveloped in thick cloud which did not clear until about 10 o'clock and we really understood the Aboriginal meaning of Eungella which is"Land of clouds". After leaving the rain forest we went down to Mackay to journey to Cape Hillsboro'National Park, stopping at Mount Jukes lookout and Cape Hillsboro'Lookout to enjoy the magnificent views,.
An escorted walk to Hidden Valley was arranged. Scores of Blue and brown butterflies fluttered around us as we commenced walking, but would not alight to be photographed. Many things of interest were seen such as Poplar or White Gum(Euc.alba) Blackboys (?Xanthorrhoea sp) green ants nests, vines, many different fungi, various Epiphytes, White Fig(Ficus virens) Palms ,Blue Quandongs (Elaeccarpus grandis) , Milky Pine (Alstonia scholaris) , nest of the Jungle Fowl, Lantana, Cluster Fig (Ficus racemosa), Pandanus and Conglomerate rock which has been bonded together by volcanic activity. There were numerous birds including over 100 Brolgas some of which were dancing. This completed a most enjoyable day. From here we went to see the Shining Starling Tree (Cottonwood or Cork Tree) with its peculiar pear shaped nests hanging from its branches. Our last day was spent at Airlie Beach and Happy Bay thus finishing a delightful holiday.

J.Hall.

MOUNT TAMBORITHA Excursion November 25th 1978

We set off with Mr Evan Chesterfield as leader. The first point ofinterest was Glenmaggie Weir. This area represents the limit of soils derived on Tertiary deposits, these are sandy loams above a heavy clay subsoil.The Tertiary deposits extend across the flats towards Sale,. The Forest Red Gum E.terchoins in the area extend along the Macalister valley as far as Licola. Beyond the weir, claystone soils derived from rocks of Silurian origin extend over the lower catchment with first evidence of red sandstone soils of Upper Devonian.. Lower Carboniferous origin appearing at Burgoynes Gap.

Isolate outliers of tertiary basalt derived soils cause abrupt structural floristic changes...red stringybark , red box forest with scrubby understory replaced by E.melliodora and E.bridgesiana. Yellow and Apple Box woodlands having kangaroo or Tussock poa grass herb stratum and no shrubs. These basalt soils have high moisture content at wilting point so plants experience drought earlier. Similar soils can be seen from Bennison Lookout.These are derived from Cambrian rocksand have a woodland with E.rubida, Mountain gums and kangaroo grass below, Cambrian rocks are the oldest geological period which are exposed in Victoria and are uncommon. As rainfall increases the effects of the heavy clay subsoil are less evident ,e.g. at Howitt Plains.. also on Tertiary basalt,vegetation differs little from other high plains but may have more herb growth content and are generally regarded as superior for fattening cattle.

WE arrived at Mt Tamboritha and decided to have lunch sitting on the snow grass under the Snow Gums, these trees are very picturesque with their branches twisted in their efforts to combat the wind and snow in the winter. A snake was an unwelcome guest, however he just slid off into the bush so we continued eating our lunch .

We later walked around the area and along Shaw's Creek where we found several orchids flowering. Prasophyllum suttonii, Diuris pedunculata (golden moth)Caladenia lyallii, Pterostylis cycnociphala (swan greenhood) Thelymitra aristata (scented sun orchid).

It was really lovely and with the alpine flowers blooming, although sometimes only one or two of some species, it being a little early for the magnificent carpet of January.Snow Daisies Celmisia longifolia with white flowers and silvery leaves were plentiful as were the White Everlastings Helipterum incanum. A few handsome golden Billy Buttons Craspediauniflora and the tiny batchelor buttons Leptorhynchus squamatus were flowering.The beautiful eye-brights Euphrasia glacialis and a few Trigger Plants Stylidium graminifolium together with Epacris microphylla and the alpine rice flower Pimelea ligustrina, and the low growing alpine grevillea with its white flowers G.australis, also the spreading Montia australasica with white flewers.The prickly leafed Richea contintent entis was a sight to see. However it was the first time I had seen the Purple Hovea at its best at this time of the year. We continued along the creek where clouds of Caddis Flies were hovering over the water looking like snow drops.

Birdos had a field day, so all in all it was a lovely day, Evan certainly knew the area well , top marks for a well planned excursion.

Iris Peterson (details by E.Chesterfield

BUTTERFLIES AT TYERS.

This is a good butterfly summer - at Tyers anyway. Perhaps it is because our luxurient spring was a good season for caterpillars. That would explain the numerous butterflies. Cabbage whites of course are always with us - or nearly always - but before Christmas the mistletoe loving Imperial Whites were also common. They are large and slow flying, their black-bordered greenish-white wings lightened by flashes of colour from their red and yellow and black underwings. At the same time there were a few Caper Whites, about the same size but with an intricate lacy pattern of black on their white underwings. Common Browns, golden brown and black and white, with an eye-like spot near the border of each wing, are almost always common in summer. They seem to be the butterflies that give the purple Buddleia clavidii its common name of Butterfly Bush. With them this year were Painted Ladies, a little smaller, of similar colours but different patterning, without the eyespots and with an irregular band of light red across the underwings. They are usually common when the capeweed is in flower for it is the foodplant for their caterpillars, but they are still about now (January) when the capeweed is drying up.

The last two species about at present are Wanderers, with big red gold wings black-veined and black bordered (lighter beneath) and Australian Admirals. The wanderers are uncommon here at present, probably because I've only one Swan Plant and their caterpillars have eaten every leaf of it.

The Admirals, on the contrary, are unusually numerous. Big Butterflies, but smaller than the Wanderers, and differing from all other local butterflies in the large oval yellow patch and white markings on the black part of their tan forewings, they fly relatively slowly, often pausing to open and close their wings slowly.

This morning I watched one at the sugar and water that is put outside the window for honeyeaters; one moment spreading its handsome brown and black and yellow wings and the next its black and white and mottled underwings were visible. It climbed over the wire mesh which keeps larger birds from the nectar, (they have their own supply elsewhere), as if looking for a way in. After a while it flew off, but later resumed the search, but the opening it found was not large enough for its broad wings. At last it found a point on the wire mesh near the food, where, by extending its proboscis to full length, it could just reach the nectar. There it sat for some time enjoying the meal. It was interesting to watch the uncurling of its long "tongue" which is really a slender sucking tube.

There were places where it could have crept inside the wire without breaking its wings, but to search until it found one was rather more than one could expect from a butterfly.

continued in next issue of Naturalist

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 20th 1979 .

" Operation Orchid" which involved the transfer of orchids from an endagered area to a safer area has been carried out.
We appreciate the co-operation of the S.E.C. in this operation.
More details later on when the success or otherwise of the venture is known.

C.C.V.annual subscription of $20.00 has been paid.
We are now able to have a vote at meetings, Mrs Brooks is our representative at the meetings.

World Environment Day
Decided that we should do something to make the general public aware of conservation etc. Suggested a film evening and /or nature display possibly in conjunction with Traralgon F.N.C. Mr J.Wall agreed to bethe liason officer between the two clubs.

Publications Received. ENVIRONS . CLEMATIS.

GEELONG NATURALIST . VICTORIAN NATURALIST.

Newsletters. S.G.A.P.Marpondah Group, South Gippsland Conservation Soc. Heritage, National Estate.

Report from the Ministry of Conservation received. This is in reference to the Proposed T.Bar extension at Mt BAw Baw.

Forest Commission had also sent report (5 Volumes) re the Flora and Fauna in Boola Boola State Forest. All these documents are available for members to read at any time. Contact Secretary if interested.

ANNUAL MEETING. Election of Office Bearers will take place on Friday March 23rd. Nomination Forms published in February NAturalist.
Offices for nomination are President Mr Sterkenburg
Vice President Mr Moretti
Treasurer Mr Lester

Also if there is anyone who thinks they can help with the assembling and posting of the NAturalist, could you contact the Editor or Secretary. This is not a difficult task but it is constant every month.

Supper Roster March 23rd Mrs O'Rielly Mrs Baillie

Next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday March 20th at the home of Mrs Padfield, 99 Chamberlain Rd, Newborough at 7.30 pm.

WANDERER BUTTERFLIES

Coming home from Adelaide on the 6th January we were passing a salt pan and my son in law couldn't believe that it was really salt so stopped to taste. While he was tasting, I was out of the car and walking along found several dead Wanderer butterflies in the grass.
These butterflies were beautiful, and not at all battered and tattered. I didn't have time to investigate further. But I wondered if in the heat wave conditions perhaps they had flown across the lake and were overcome by the salt , or had tried to drink the salt water, or just died of heat exhaustion. The temperature had been well overthe 100 mark for over a week.

Iris Paterson

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

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LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I.Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm. on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
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APRIL, 1979
ISSUE No. 184

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

YARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday April 20th
Mrs L.Padfield Slides and talk about Alaska trip.

EXCURSION: Sunday April 22nd
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday April 27th

SPEAKER: Mr R.Cromer from C.S.I.R.O. Research re Pines , Eucalypts especially in our area.

EXCURSION: Saturday April 28th
Silver Creek Tree Farm

MEETING PLACE: Mc/Donalds Track turnoff adjacent to Princes Highway at Yallourn turnoff. at 10.00 am.

Traralgon F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday May 5th
No details known.

SALE F.N.C.

The Sale F.N.C. are now meeting in Room 13 of the Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street , Sale. No change in the dates or time of meeting

WARATAH BAY EXCURSION. 24/2/79

A very strong East wind was blowing beneath an overcast sky when ten cars assembled at our usual Heeniyan meeting spot for the visit to Waratah Bay. Along the edges of the road as we travelled south were vestiges of the sword grass and scrub which once covered these rolling plains with occasional groups of Peppermint Gums and Gippsland Mallees with Dogwoods and bracken beneath them.
After the turn from the main road to the Buffalo-Liptrap road there were Swamp Tea-trees and Sheoaks and more Gippsland Mallees bordering the road. Once the sealed road ended we were on the far more interesting "Horror Track" on which until a few years ago it was inevitable that cars became bogged ---- in water during the winter, in sand during the summer. BUtsince properties along this road have been developed over the last twenty years the road has improved with still a fair amount of the original bush along the edges. There were several bushes of Twiggy Daisy Bush (Olearia ramulosa) flowering, a few odd flowers of the Silky Tea-tree (Leptospermum Myrsinoides), well grown bushes of Prickly Geebung (persoonia juniperina), Sweet Wattle (Acacia sauveolens), occasional tangles of Dodder Laurel, and some Wonga Vine (Pandorea pandorama) over some bushes.

A short stop for the bird and plant people was made at the Water Reserve on Bald Hills Creek where Dr. Smith was observed netting in the shallow waters of the creek. There were taller trees at this spot.. Blackwoods (Acacia melanoxylon) Sweet Bursaria (Bursaria spinosa), Prickly MOses (Acacia verticillata), Silver Banksia (Banksia marginata), and a few Elderberry Panax (Tieghemopanax sambucifolius). Among all these and the ferns and reeds along the creek were seen Grey Fantails, Scrub Wrens, Swallows, Mudlarks, Firetail Finches, Ravens and White-faced Herons. Starlings rose from the paddocks--- must have been some caterpillars there -- before Ten Mile Creek on the Liptrap Road where there were Coast Wattle (Acacia longifolia var. sophorae)on the sandy rises (old dunes), and Cherry Ballart bushes (Exocarpus cupressiformis) with more Geebungs and sheoaks.

Another short stop was made at the Lookout on the Loop Road, but the strong wind bringing a misty haze over the coast made even the views over the heathlands very dull although there was some white Heath flowering and we were able to look back over the valley along which we had just driven. On then through the light forest under Messmate and Peppermints to reach the sealed road leading to Walkerville North.
Grass trees along this road and thicker growth in the sheltered gullies with Tree ferns and Coral fern before we reached the parking area at the shore. Conditions were very unpleasant for exploring the rock pools among the fascinating folded and broken rocks of the shore platform and we were unable to get to the deeper outlying pools as the wind was blowing the water higher than usual on the outgoing tide. Although this was disappointing, many interesting creatures were found and Dr Smith was able to identify our finds. There were Anemones and Chitons, Flat Worms and Crabs of varying hues, Biscuit Starfish and Sponges, interesting egg masses and Ascidiums and Algae.

contd...pp 2

BUTTERFLIES AT TYERS contd...

After it went I put some sugar and water outside the wire but so far as I know it did not return. It is interesting to note that though we have Admirals in the garden every year, there are , so far as I know no nettles within a mile or more although nettles are the food plant of their caterpillars. We have also one of the blues (I think Common Grass Blue) and a Skipper near patches of SawSedge but they never keep still long enough to be identified.

An addendum to the above - a week later.

The Wanderer caterpillars must have died when their food plant was leafless, but I discovered a large one on a Tweedia in the garden. Tweedia is a very small shrub with star-shaped flowers of an unusual but most attractivechina blue, and how did the butterfly know it? they belong to the same family , Asclepiadaceae,as Swan Plant. They look quite unlike it with their broad downy grey leaves and blue flowers, yet a Wanderer had laid its eggs there. Of course it knew nothing about plant families, but instinctively, when there are no leaves on the Swan Plant it laid eggs on the Tweedia. In modern terms one might say it was "programmed" to lay eggs on members of that family - and it did. But I did not want to lose my only Tweedia so Mr and Mrs thompson came to my rescue (and the caterpillars) with a bunch of Swan Plant. It is now a crysalis. And there are more Wanderer eggs on the Tweedia.

Jean Galbraith.

WARATAH BAY EXCURSION contd....

During lunch a flock of very hungry Seagulls joined our party. We enjoyed their company and they enjoyed our scraps. After lunch it was decided that perhaps the western side of Cape Liptrap might provide calmer conditions for searching rock pools. So once back via the Loop road and past the Trig.point on Mt Liptrap (562 ft A.S.L.!) then along the spine of the peninsula on the Lighthouse road, some of this between masses of Coast Tea tree. Just before the Lighthouse a large Echidna was scrambling off the road so we stopped for a closer look at it. At the light the wind was so strong only the most adventurous attempted the descent. They were rewarded by the intriguing rock formations and a chance to look in pools out of the wind. those who stayed on the cliff were able to watch flights of hundreds of Shearwaters fishing as they moved from West to East across the water beyond the tip of the cape. When all had clambered back to the cars we drove to a more sheltered Picnic spot at Tarwin Lower for a cuppa. On the way along the road from Ten Mile to Tarwin Lower, Mudlarks, Magpies, Hawks, White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis and Swifts were seen. After a cuppa thanks were expressed to Dr Smith for his talk and beautiful slides of the previous evening and his patience and interest in our wanderings round Waratah way.

E.P.Brewster.

MARINE LIFE

Talk by Dr B.Smith 24/2/79

Dr Smith introduced his talk in telling us that 7/8 of the world is Sea, life began in the sea, the sea is a living thing.
There are many more species found in the sea than in the air or on la nd.
Many species are found only in the sea.

For Marine Life Australia is divided into two areas, Tropical and Southern. There are great differences between these areas.
The Southern fauna is unique to Australia with some overlap to New Zealand and South Africa. There are many types of areas included in the Intertidal Zone.These include Soft mud and Saltmarsh, Mangroves , Estuaries, sandy beaches with rocks and sediments.
There are the rock platforms and the open ocean. Some of these areas have little wave action and are classed as low energy areas , while the open ocean has a lot of wave action and is a high energy area.

When collecting specimens from the sea or rock platforms , we must always replace rocks overturned back where they were found.
Many animals live under the rocks and in crevices and if they are left exposed to the sun and winds they will die.

There were many slides to illustrate what Dr Smith was telling us.
The Anemone and Sea Stars(Star fish) are totally different , but are often found close together.
The Sponges are a large group in Southern Australia. Most are below the Intertidal Zone , even at a depth of 20 ft (6.1 m) thereeis great variety. Sponges have a complex skeleton inside their structure.

The Anemones are another level. they are primitive carnivorous animals.
They have tenticles which sting and inject venom into their prey.
A Horny Coral (Hydroid) is related to the anemones, they have a coloured skeleton which is part of their beauty. The hard Corals of Northern waters have colour , but they depend on the polyp for their colour.

Jelly Fish or Jellies. These can be very large , some are 2- 3 metres across and are approximately 90 % water. There are several poisonous species including the Box Jelly fish which we hear about in Queensland,

Worms. This is a large and diverse group. there were several examples of ringed, segmented free moving worms. There were others in "tubes".
One especially interesting was the "Bamboo Worm" which had segments elongated to resemble pieces of bamboo.
The worms in tubes cannot move about for food, but must wait for the food to come to them. Also they have a more efficient way of getting oxygen, they have no jaws or teeth but feed by sweeping up small animals with filaments which bring their food to them.
Some worms have a mucilage tube, others have a tube of sand grains.
There are also reef building worms. One slide showed the "Feather Duster Worm", with the head when outside looking like a duster.

contd next issue

L.Padfield.

HOLMES PLAIN CAMPOUT, JANUARY 1979.

By dark on the Friday night prior to the Australia Day Weekend, six camps of Field Nats had been set up in a pleasant spot at the edge of gums with good grass tussocks (and ants nests!) and deep coloured trigger plants over the ground. Nearby a small stream which forms part of shaw's Creek provided good water for drinking and washing and catching small fish, tadpoles at differing stages, and various small frogs. The fish were caught quite accidentally in bucketsful scooped out for camp use. Views from the camp were across the snow plain to the far side or along it to Kelly's Hut in the distance.

From early Saturday morning more campers arrived until after lunch there was a total of sixteen camps. Exploration of the plain and surrounds delighted newcomers to the mountains with small alpine plants to be found.Those who had been in these higher partsbefore were able to renew aquaintance with treasures remembered from earlier visits. As well there was a variety of birds through the trees and across the plain. There was also the interest of visiting the large chock and log formed cattle yards and exploring varied tracks or climbing the large rocky hill to the west of the yards.

On Saturday afternoon our leader Mr Evan Chesterfield led a convoy of cars to the Surveyors Creek Forestry camp where the cars were left while he took us for a short walk (of about 5 miles!) this took us up a hillsidethrough the shrubbery and understory below tall eucalypts to a rocky clearing where we rested to admire the view and pursue botanical discussion before climbing to the top of Rocky Nob. From here there was a view to the Snowy Range, Mt Arbuckle, and to the mountains to the W.N. and E. The way then led down to Playboy Plain where the forest border is thickening around the edges with regrowth from after the 1939 fires. On this plain too we saw some of the bare patches on which there is gradual regrowth of small plants and ferns. The track then led on through light forest with a variety of new finds until we were walking down another long plain on which was a delightful bog with Fairies Aprons of the deepest purple hue. the return trip from this point was over much of the earlierpart of the walk but still more finds were made of plants and birds as well as emu and cattle tracks.

Sunday morning was again fine and clear as the previous two days had been and a convoy of cars set off for the day's expedition. This day Evan led us to the car park at the road near the track to Guy's Hut, from where approximately forty of us went off on foot down the lovely open valley of Pieman's Creek in Bryce's Gorge. At this point half the party decided to return to lunch at the cars while others went in through the valley to the falls. After some time at the falls this party returned by hiking up Conglomerate Creek and a side stream through the fence to the Guy's Hut paddock and back to the cars.

As we lunched it was discovered that not all the party had returned! So as soon as possible a dozen walkers set off to look for the missing three. They were found sitting on a log and by mid afternoon all were once more back to the car park.

contd....pp 5

HOLMES PLAIN CAMPOUT JANUARY 1979 contd...

As we were back earlierto camp this day it gave opportunity for more exploration of the plain near camp after tea. Before dark we all visited Mr Chesterfield's camp to thank him for his efforts on our behalf in showing us so much of the mountain country.

Monday morning was again fine with the promise of a very hot day and cars started departing early for the hotter plains and home below. Those who did not have to leave until later again followed in convoy behind Evan's vehicle along the Moroka Road and out to Castle Hill where there is a stand of Kybean Gum growing on the rocky outcrop around the summit. From here too were fine views over the mountains inland and other views out over the plains and across to Lake Wellington.

For all those who spent the weekend at the campout there was something of interest .... the discoveries of plants small or large; mountain and other grasshoppers and flying creatures; the "taddies" and frogs; the lizards and fish ; the thirtysix different which were noted; the stars at night. As well there was the enjoyment of companionship with other folk and the excitements of the weekend. We now look forward to next years campout and hope many others who were unable to come this year will be with us then.

E.P.Brewster.

BLACK DUCK NESTING.

Towards the end of November I was tending some young trees in a roadside plantation. It was on a wide road junction, and a large area of red soil had been stirred up a few years ago in a deviation. Prarie Grass, thistles and kindred weeds were a metre high and very dense. Only the Swamp rats and the Bush rats thrived, both above and below ground. (With a bountiful harvest of seed assured why did the wretches have to nibble the bark of my trees so ?)

A volunteer Dogwood made an island of deep green amid the sea of grass. I happened to pass near it and was amazed when a Black Duck whirred out from underneath it. There was the secret nest, beautifully hidden, with nine eggs snugly bedded in down. I did not touch anything but passed on, hoping that no smart predator would follow in my footprints. Ripe grass does not rise readily when trodden on. I purposely avoided visiting the spot for about three weeks, by which time I thought the e-gs should have hatched and broken shells perhaps point to the success of same. Alas, the nest lining had all been scratched out and the bush stank of fox. I could find no shell fragments nor any adult feathers that might indicate that the duck had been taken on the nest.

Surely, it was a curious palce for a duck to choose as a nursery. On one side was the noisy highway, on the other a gravel side road. All around in paddocks and roadsides was the rampant grass growth, with no water available within a kilometre in any direction. How could tiny ducklings expect to walk there, even If they could successfully negotiate the denseforests of the grass stems. Perhaps as my husband suggested, it was a very inexperienced duck ?

Ellen Lyndon.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

It only seems a short time since our last Annual Meeting and another year has passed. We have had a successful year of interesting meetings and excellent speakers. The excursions were very well attended and most of them very successful. The Christmas break up party at the property of Mr and Mrs Ringin was a great successand we hope to have it there again this coming year. The new programme for the coming year promises to be again interesting as very good speakers have accepted our invitations.

In July last year we lost our good friend and life-member Mr. Robert Auchterlonie. He has shared his knowledge and love of nature with us for so many years and we regard it as a great privilege to have known him for so long.

Thanks to the enormous amount of work Mrs Bon Thompson has put writing numerous submissions on behalf of our Club, we are in very good relations with Forestry, the S.E.C.and A.P.M. Thank you Bon for the many days and hours you have spent on these subjects.

Several members of our Club are representing us in different organisations. Ollie Thompson in Wirilda, Ken McDonald in Woorabinda School Camp and Esward Hunter Reserve and Mrs Brooks in the Conservation Council of Victoria and the V.F.N.C.A. thank you all for this excellent work.

Our Club is affiliated with the Victorian Field Nat. Club and the Conservation Council of Victoria.
Through all these contacts we are receiving every month many newsletters from Geelong, the Maroondah Group S.G.A.P. the Gippsland Conservation Group, C.C.V., Ecos, Environs and CLEMATIS the publication of the Bairnsdale F.N.C. They are all excellent publications and always tabled for your interest. OUr library is in perfect shape and the librarian, Mrs Crane is only too willing to help you.

There is a very close liason between our neighbiuring clubs like Warraful, Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale . Many of these members are members of our club also.

I would like to mention two groups in particular, who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make our club what it is today.
Firstly the committee and secondly the team which produces the Naturalist and in particular Mrs Peterson, our Secretary and Mrs Padfield our editor. I like to thank you sincerely , Iris and Lorna.

The members of our club always can offer help in particular by contributing to our publication and by write-ups of our meetings and excursions. That would make it so much easier for the "behind the scenes" workers.

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TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1978-1979

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance as at 14/3/78	$181.26	Subscriptions	$ 36.00
Bank interest	8.91	Donations	10.00
Subscriptions	385.40	Petty Cash	98.11
Donations Supper)		Yallourn State School	24.00
Plants, others)	32.10	Naturalist magazine	400.91
Balance as Dr. Doery's cheque	5.50	Subs. overpaid	10.00
		Balance of cheque	5.50
		Balance on hand	28.65
	$613.17		$613.17

Books were audited by R.D.Burrage of the State Savings Bank and found to be correct at 28/2/79.

Members will be able to see the state of our finances, which is not really good. The bank balance of $28.65 is down on last year due to increased expenses for the Naturalist. The situation shpuld be remedied by the increase in subscriptions.

PRESIDENT'SREPORT contd...

I also want to mention the shift to our new clubroom in Moe. Everyone seems to be very happy with this change. Unfortunately the trip is a bit longer for our "Eastern Members" but the very comfortable chairs are a big compensation for this. We are very thankful that we are able to make use of this beautiful building.

Friendliness is the keynote of all our meetings and excursions and I hope that will stay with us for ever.

For health reasons I cannot seek re-election, but from here I like to thank the committee and all members for your co-operation received during my term of office and I wish the new committee every success for the future.

Bart Sterkenburg.

Other Reports read at the meeting were:

Car Sticker Project	MR Puckey
Conservation Council of Vic	Mrs Brooks
Wirilda Progress Assoc.	Mr O.Thompson
Conservation	Mrs B.thompson
Edward Hunter Reserve	Mr K.McDonald
Woorabinda	Mr K.Mcdonald

These members must be thanked for their work in preparing reports. The Secretary has copies of these if you wish to read them.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 20th 1979

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY is June 5th. To encourage awareness in the environment and conservation we have decided to join with Traralgon F.N.C. in a Film evening and display. A sub-committee has been formed to meet with Traralgon F.N.C. to arrange a suitable programme.

C.C.V AWARENESS TOUR. This is a conducted tour through Gippsland. Comfortable coach - motel accomodation - April 30th to May 5th. Full details from C.C.V. phone 329 5377 or write, 324 William St 3000 The Secretary is hoping to receiva an itiniary so that any members who are in the areas visited might be interested in meeting with the tour at some of their stopping places. Or you may be interested in the whole tour.

Advice received re the Identification course for MOsses and Liverworts. this will be at Monash University from May 21st to May 25th.

Fee is $55.00. For further information contact
The Centre for Continuing Education Monash University
Clayton 3168.

Contact Secretary for more details .

NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION. Correspondence received about the nominations for this medallion which is offered by the F.N.C.V.
Miss Galbraith is our representative in this matter. We will most likely support the nomination of Miss Helen Aston.

Publications Received. ECOS, Victorian Naturalist,
S.G.A.P Maroondah group Newsletter.

Mrs Jessie Burns has agreed to assemble and post the Naturalist, thus leaving Mr Sterkenburg frre of any responsibility for this.

There was discussion re the Annual Meeting , elections, Reports etc.

Supper Roster April 27th Mrs Padfield Miss Strong

The next committee meeting will be held on tuesday April 24th at the home of Mr and Mrs Wall 156 Kay street Traralgon at 7.30 pm.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523 792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Road
YALLOURN 3838

Naturalist $4.50 Family $5.50 Single member $5.00

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club. Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon Editor Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Road
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday May 18th
SPEAKER: Mr D.Holyroyd " Rock Climbing" 9(Illustrated)
EXCURSION: Sunday May 20th.
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday May 25th.
SPEAKERS: Mr and Mrs J.Brooks about their trip to West Australia.
EXCURSION: Saturday May 26th to Mt Worth area.
MEETING PLACE: Darnum Hotel at 10.00 am.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 5th.

Films and displays at the Traralgon Little Theatre in the evening.

Watch for advertising and further information in local papers etc.

SALE F.N.C.

Miss Joan Dixon will speak about her recent overseas trip.
Members of all clubs welcome to this meeting.
The excursion will be to the Millung South Reserve on Sunday June 3rd. Contact Secretary for further details.

BROWN COAL MINES IN GERMANY

Address by Mr R.Gaulton 23/3/79

Mr Gaulton spoke on his recent visit to the brown coal mines of Germany.Unfortunately he was not permitted to take films of any of the East German undertakings; but no such restrictions were imposed in West Germany. The main areas shown on the slides were at Fortuna Open Cut near the city of Cologne.

Mr Gaulton compared the open cuts in Germany to the Latrobe Valley undertakings. Whereas Latrobe Valley open cuts have a vast thickness of coal, the German fields are badly faulted and deformed.Also there are vast quantities of overburden on top of the coal. IN Germany there is up to 6 times as much overburden as coal; while in Victoria it is just the opposite. The actual operations are very similar; but the machines for moving the overburden are much larger in Germany than the S.E.C. machines, up to 10 times the rated output. Cars and trucks in the slides gave some idea of the size of the machines. These machines not only have to remove the overburden from the top of the coal, but also throughout the face as the coal seams are usually separated by other sediments.

The coal winning machines are smaller in number than the overburden machines, which again is just the opposite to the S.E.C.operations. It is quite usual for 60 metres of overburden to be removed to obtain 10 metres of coal. The vast amount of overburden is used up to fill the open cut after opertaions have moved on.

Slides of the power station looked very similar to the W station at Yallourn, but of course more extensive. The visitors centre is an old castle with many displays for the visitors. As there are large grounds around the castle, an area has been created that is painted with the types of trees that would have been growing in the area when the coal was laid down.

The Germans do a very good job of rehabitating areas after the coal winning operations have moved on along the seam.

The mode of mining in East Germany differed slightly from West Germany. There was an overburden bridge up to 600 metres long and about 200 metres up above the operations. The open cut is usually a slot about 2-3 kliometres long and 90 metres deep with 6 - 10 metres of coal. this bridge is actually a massive conveyor bridge which takes the overburden straight back behind the operations and places it in the slot where operations have been conpleted.

In the Yallourn open cut there are different seams of coal varying in colour from very dark to a very light brown colour. These bedding colours show up when the coal is in a dry state; but when the coal is wet it all looks the same. Although the physical and chemical properties in the different colours are similar, great interest is being shown at present in the different grades of coal- known as lithotypes.
The differences are important in the way the coal can be upgraded for a wide range of products.

contd...pp 2

BROWN COAL MINES IN GERMANY. contd...

In EastGermany this wide range of products is produced from the brown coal. Based on the German experience, it could be that the dark lithotypes of Victorian coal are not much good for upgrading, so concern is being shown in the extent of the lighter coloured lithotypes in the Latrobe Valley. the difference in the bands must mean changes in the environment at the time of deposition of the coal. It is known that the pale light coal contains more pollen, the medium contains woody stumps and other differences can be seen under a microscope.

Mr Gaulton then showed slides of artists impressions of the land scape at the time the coal fields were being laid down. The different types all included swampy conditions but with different plants from the reeds and rushes in one environment, to light tree cover, to dense tree cover and a plant like mangroves. Although only artists impressions these prints were very interesting and were thought to be fairly accurate in species. In the Latrobe Valley brown coal, most of the fossil materials have been identified at the herbarium and many of the plants are found as exotic specimens in the gardens. Banksias and Sheokes are in coal 30 million years old, together with abundant remains of conifers, so much of this was in the artists impression of the environment for the Latrobe Valley at the time the coal was deposited.

The second print was a German reconstruction - an open swamp with very wet environment of reeds and rushes, etc. but no trees.

The mangrove type trees were also in a very wet environment; while another print was of an area where water was only present for portion of the year and therefore the deposition only took place for a portion of the year.

The final area had water in a broad sheet with very lush growth and with big trees falling regularly.

Changes in the environment during the laying down of the coal could cause the banding effect. Thus the type of environment at deposition time could determine the ability of the coal for upgrading for future products.

At question time the fact that came out most clearly was that we do not appreciate our good fortune to have such depositions of brown coal in such relatively pure state.

Don Thompson.

ARE YOU SUPERSTITIOUS ?

So many people think that 13 is an unlucky number, but I can't agree with that; especially when I look back to the 13th of September 1977 which was one of our luckiest, if not the luckiest day, of our whole trip to Western Australia.

It was perfect weather and we explored the Fitzgerald river National Park. Well, lets be honest, part of it. This park, which is on the coast between Albany and Esperence, and close to Hopetoun,comprises 242,727 hectares and is noted for its most unusual flora.

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ARE YOU SUPERSTITIOUS? contd...

Running practically parallel with the coast are mountains known as the Barren Range, with sharp rugged peaks. Many extremely rare flowers are found here, for example the Qualup Bell (Pimelea physodes) which seems to grow only in South Africa and this part of Australia. We were fortunate to find, not only flowering plants but also the Barren Regelia, (Regelia velutina) among the quartzite rocks. Many interesting Banksias grow in this area as well.

Just finding the Qualup Bell would have been enough to make the 13th my lucky day, but the greatest excitement was yet to come. WE had left our car and walked between the range and the coast, over a very rough terrain consisting of big pieces of rock, which probably came from the high range. Many of the plants growing there were completely new to us, and after about an hours exploring we sat down to rest on some rocks, facing the ocean. The ocean was deepest blue and the stiff breeze coming from the west blew the waves into white horses, which were beautiful to watch - we were quite overwhelmed by the beauty around us. It was then I spotted in the far distance, something in the sea bigger than the waves Could it be a boat upside down, tossed in the whirling sea ? It was definately not a rock, because it moved, and although it appeared to be white sometimes a black spot showed up as well. The binoculars were a long way off in the car, but we were so anxious to identify the object that I went back to collect them.

You can imagine our surprise when we discovered, that what we had guessed to be an overturned boat, were two whales, one a lot bigger than the other.

The larger whale turned itself lenghtwise many times, and its white belly was clearly visible - (that's what we thought could be a boat). NOw and again an enormous black tailcame up in the air and then every thing disappeared for a while, only to emerge again further on. There followed an enermous spout of water, which, seen from our position, looked more like steam. They were still a good distance from the coast so were difficult to distinguish, but two spouts of water blowing at the same time, gav e us a good idea that there was a big and smaller one, most likely a mother and child, or as they are called, a cow and calf.

When they came closer to the coast, we suddenly discovered that we could both see and hear them, especially when they were "blowing" a roaring sound could be heard.

The field glasses changed hands all the time as we watched, spellbound, the play of mother and child, until after about an hour and a half we relunctantly made the decision to walk back to the car.

"Walk " you said. Have you ever sat on a sharp rock for one and a half hours ? ?. We had not realised just how sharp those rocks were until we tried to walk over them.

The next day I was out again in the hope of getting another glimps of those beautiful creatures, but they were not to be seen. I got all the information I wanted, however, from a gentleman from Geraldton, whom I met in Hopetounn

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EXCURSION TO YALLOURN OPEN CUT.

Over twenty people assembled outside the Yallourn Post Office where Bob Gaulton, our speaker of the previous night and our leader for the excursion met us and distributed the hard hats necessary for our visit into the open cut. Many people shuffled cars and a smaller group of six cars led by Mr gaulton left the Post Office at 9.45 am.

We swung past Yallourn W station with its two gigantic cooling towers and then through the works area into the open cut. Not having been in either the Yallourn or Morwell open cuts before, the size of it was very impressive. Rain came down as we passed one of the huge bucket-chain dredges. It was very well timed though, stopping as soon as we reached our first stop, a high bank of coal on the first level below the surface.

Here on the near vertical coal face many fossilized plant remains could be found. Whole sections of tree trunks,probably of pine, had been exposed as well as many fragments of leaves. I was informed the leaves were from a plant called Oleinites, a type of olive or laurel.
The different coloured lithotypes of coal talked about by Mr Gaulton during his talk the previous night could be clearly seen in the strata of the coal. Two definately alive and non-fossilized frogs were also sighted floating down a drain in what seemed a very barren habitat.

Progressing on to a lower level we stopped at a spot where coal formed partly of pollen could be found. More fossilized Oleinites leaves some in very good condition, where picked up, as well as many morepieces and fragments of wood and some small spherical objects that may have been seeds.

The next stop was at the very bottom of the open cut where everyone fanned out in search of fossilized resin heaps in the coal.
The resin was dull yellow in colour and quite easily found. Some veritable boulders were carted back to the cars. We then drove back to the dredge we had passed earlier hoping perhaps to see it in action from close up. Unfortunately twelve o'clock and lunchtime had arrived by the time we reached it so we missed the spectacle.

Mr Gaulton had to leave at this stage so he was thanked for leading us on an informative tour of the open cut. After this the group returned to Yallourn and then went their separate ways. A few cars went up to the lookout for lunch , but the wind and rain closed in and we had to eat in the cars.

Barry Traill.

ARE YOU SUPERSTITIOUS ? contd....

He told me that about six weeks previously several cows and calves had been seen in the same area. At that time of year the whales are moving south and mostly cows and calves stay in the shallow areas near the coast. From Cape Leeuwin they travel in an easterly direction until the young are sufficiently fit to leave the coast and take on the big trip south. Whatever the decision of the whaling industry in Australia, I hope that we will not be deprived of this sight - the wonderful play of mother and child, which we saw so well on the 13th of the month.

Bart Sterkenburg.

MARINE LIFE. contd....

We then heard of the Sea Stars or StarFish which is the name much used , but Sea Star is a better description.
These animals have no head structure, they have a central body with many arms passing into it. There were Biscuit Stars, Brittle Stars which have flexible arms which break easily.There are many shapes and sizes of these animals. The Sea Urchins are related to this group also. Their arms are folded inwards and enclosed in a hard casing. Sea Urchins are common in Victoria and could be a commercial fish for some people.

The Molluscs, are Dr Smith's special interest. The species shown were the ones more likely to be seen in Victorian waters. These included Limpets ,Whelks and Abalone. The MOlluscs also include garden snails and other similar species. A very common species is the Chiton, which has eight segments. It is often seen attached to rocks.
Several Bivalves were shown including the "Brooch Shell" which is common in Westernport Bay.

A slide of the "Blue Ring Octopus" was shown. The beautiful bands of purple on the arms make this animal rather attractive when seen in the water. We are warned each year of the dangers involved in handling this species.

In conclusion Dr Smith mentioned the collection of shells which can be harmful to some species. The Volute was one in particular.
We must not collect shells indiscriminately.
Mention was made of the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences who are doing Marine Studies in Bass Strait.

This brought to an end a most interesting evening enjoyed by all. A vote of thanks was made to Dr Smith for his talk , also giving up some of his valuable time for us.

L.Padfield

THE PIONEERS.

As we lunched that day at Dingo Creek on the top of Littlejohn's Hill we marvelled at the hardihood of those pioneers, and at the endurance of the horses of the day that pulledbuggies and carts up and down from the coastal villages. Around us there struggled the scattered remnants of a garden, with the usual clumps of Belladonnas. Some of these have gone to better homes!

The house, Mr Rossiter told us, had been hand-hewn from the local timbers and was mounted on lumps of rock which did duty for stumps.
It was later moved down to the coast so it must have been strongly made.
Gazing down from our eminence across the valleys of two creeks divided by a minor ridge, and up a similarly steep mountainside to the little school at Wonyip across this gulf, we thought of the children who had been reared on this steep hill farm. How surprised they would have been to see us striving to save the bush they had fought against all their lives !

E.Lyndon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 24th 1979

The financial position of the Club is much improved since the Annual Meeting and payment of subscriptions.
The notices for payment in the last issue stated the price of the Naturalist to be $4.50. this should have been $4.00. Apologies to any members inconvenienced by this error.

A letter from the Australian Conservation Foundation showed concern for some Acts of Parliament pertaining to conservation .
Some of these acts are to be reviewed, but to what extent?
We are urged to write to Members of Parliament regarding this matter.
The Secretary has full details if you wish to write.

National Estate Grants Programme Guidlines.
Papers explaining this programme were received.

Other publications received: Shell Film Catalogue
C.C.V.Newsletter, Clean Environment, S.G.A.P.Maroondah Group Newsletter

Sale F.N.C. advised of the meeting of June 1st when Miss Joan Dixon will speak about her recent trip overseas. All members are invited to attend.
World Environment Day. JUNE 5th.
Arrangements in hand for this film evening and display, which will be held in the Traralgon Little Theatre.

The Secretary wishes to advise that all of the publications received which include newsletters from sister clubs are available for perusal any time. Some of these are in the Library, others are in the hands of the Secretary.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 22nd at the home of Mrs Peterson , 14 Barry St, MORWELL at 7.30 pm.

SUPPER ROSTER May 25th Mrs Smith Mrs Lubcke

Correction. In the report of Holmes Plain Campout in Jan 1979 Naturalist second last paragraph should be KYBEAN MALLEE not Kybean Gum.
This correction should have appeared in the last issue. Ed.

Members will be sorry to hear that Mrs Mattie Sterkenburg has been in hospital recently. She is now recovering at home.
Many cards and flowers from members were sent to her.
We hope you will soon be able to enjoy our meetings and excursions.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 525 792	

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Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Road
YALLOURN 3838

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NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

Warragul F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday June 15th Mrs Alice Jencke Illustrated talk on Tasmania.
EXCURSION	Sunday June 17th Contact Secretary for details

Latrobe ValleyF.N.C.

MEETING	Friday June22nd
SPEAKER	Miss Jean Calbraith " In search of flowers overseas"
EXCURSION	Saturday June 23rd to the South Cascade Creek area.
MEETING PLACE	Parkers Corner (past Erica township) at 9.30 am. Leaving at 10.00 am

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Traralgon F.N.C.

Meeting	Friday July 6th

PINES AND EUCALYPTS.

Talk by Mr R.Cromer of the C.S.I.R.O.Division of Forest Research.
Friday 27th April 1979.

Mr Cromer said that the Division of Forest Research of the C.S.I.R.O was created in 1975. It was formerly part of the Forestry and Timber Bureau of the Commonwealth Government. The Head Office is in Canberra, and staff number 240-250. There are Regional Stations in Atherton, Perth, Mt Ganbier, Traralgon, Hobart, Darwin and one to be established in Brisbane. Mr Cromer specalises in Nutrient cycling and ecology.

The Gippsland Regional Station was established in Traralgon in co-operation with A.P.M.Forests Pty LtdResearch Station in 1958. Mr Ken Eldridge commenced research into the breeding of Pinus radiata and the genetics of eucalypts.

Mr Cromer based his talk on research carried out by both A.P.M. Forests and the Division of Forest Research.

Pinus radiata was selected for pulpwood because of its fast growth Eucalypts are generally slower, but Mountain Ash (E.regnans)is fast growing in favourable conditions. One of the fastest growing native pines is Hoop Pine (A.cunninghamii) which grows in Queensland.

Mr Cromer showed a selection of excellent slides showing how research has been carried out into the breeding of pines and eucalypts, and improving production.

Eucalypt forests had adapted to the poor soils on which Pinus radiata forests are planted, but the latter trees generally need fertilisation for best growth. Phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium need to be added according to the locality, and in some areas zinc, copper(Longford) boron or other trace elements. Tests have been carried out to find the best applications for economic production.

Experiments are carried out to improve pollination. Slides showed the value of cross pollination.

There was a slide of the first seed orchard for the breeding of Mountain Ash (E.regnans). Controlled crosses are made by removing anthers and the desired pollen dusted on to the stigma.

In a co-operative project with the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, Pinus radiata trees are being irrigated with sewerage effluent

Questions which followed showed the interest taken in Mr Cromers talk.

SEED SELECTION. Up to the present, Pinus radiata seed introduced into Australia have been random selections. Recently Mr K.Eldridge collected seed in California to give a broader genetic base.

REPLANTING PINUS RADIATA FORESTS

There is evidence from South Australia showing a falling off in productivity of second plantings, but not many areas show this result. Research is in progress.

NATIVE ANIMALS IN PINE FORESTS Diversity is reduced in plantations, but some animals can live in this environment. Clearing before planting removes the old nesting trees with suitable hollows, so that a number of species are wiped out. As thinning occurs and diversity increases, some species tend to return.

contd.....pp2

PINES AND EUCALYPTS contd...

FERTILISATION AND WOOD QUALITY.

Fertilisation causing faster growth reduces density, but not enough to be a disadvantage. In the case of some eucalypts, especially Blue Gum, (E.globulus) this is an advantage.

Our President Mr J.Wall thanked the speaker for his interesting ta talk and slides, and made a presentation as a token of our appreciation.

C.Lester

details supplied by Mr Cromer.

Mr K.Eldridge referred to in this article is known to many members of our club. He is now Dr.K.Eldridge and lives in Canberra with his family.

BIRD OBSERVING.

On a recent camping trip around N.E.Victoria, we spent a night at the Corryong Caravan Park, and when leaving in the morning, the Proprietor, noting our B.O.C. car sticker, told us about a Mrs Cookson who lived in a caravan at the top of Mt Mittamatite and did some bird observing there - so we set off and about 10 miles from corryong we left the main roadand followed the mountain track for another 10 miles.
The track was the narrowest, roughest and steepest track we had ever travelled with long stretches of low gear work !
About 6 lovely silver grey kangaroos crossed the road in front of us at one stage. We eventually got to the top and there was the caravan!
It appeared that Mr Cookson worked on the Fire Tower and the couple lived there for 4 months of the year during the summer and just loved it.

Mrs Cookson did some bird observing for the B.O.C.and had identified 82 different species. She had found it difficult at first and felt that one should start young, but she was thoroughly enjoying it and was getting on well after 2 or 3 years, and they have 2 or 3 more summers to do. We spent the day up there and while walking along a track saw quite a few birds ourselves.
Mrs Cookson said that on one occasion, a friend who was more knowledgeable than she was, spent some time with her and they went out one night and were fortunate enough to see two baby owls sitting on a branch and then they heard the approach call of the parent bird, and the friend was able to record it. They believe that it was the first time that the approach call of the Boobook had been recorded, so were very thrilled.

Kathleen Eve.
Warragul F.N.C.

HOLMES PLAIN BIRDLIFE.

Sometime ago, I was asked to submit a bird list for the January 1979 Campout to Holmes Plain. Although at first there appeared to be very little variety in bird life, the beautiful sunny weather brought out more species as the weekend progressed. We eventually accumulated quite an interesting list with some unexpected sightings such as Black Duck, Mountain Duck and Japanese Snipe on Holmes Plain itself!
Someone also produced part of an egg shell which they claimed was that of a Black Duck , but as it looked remarkabely like a domestic hen's egg shell, I'm still not certain whether I was having my leg pulled! Anyway to get back to the subject, birds sighted , or positively identified from call, other than the three mentioned above are as follows.

White -faced Heron	Richard's Pipit
Large white Egret	Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike
Brown Goshawk	Flame Robin
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Scarlet Robin
Hankeen Kestrel	Yellow Robin
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Olive Whistler
King Parrot	Rufous Whistler
Crimson Rosella	Grey Shrikethrush
Eastern rosella	Jacky winter
Fantailed Cuckoo	Satin Flycatcher
Spine-tailed Swift	Grey Fantail
LAughing Kookaburra	Superb Blue Wren
Fairy Martin	White-browed Scrub Wren
White-throated Tree-creeper	Red Wattle-bird
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	White-eared Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Striated Pardalote
Silvereye	Red-browed Firetail
Australian (whitebacked) Magpie	
Grey Currawong	Pied Currawong Raven.

A total of 42 species were identified over the 3 days and some one also reported seeing a species of pigeon which they were unable to identify.

I know this is supposed to be about bird life, but I would like to share my experience with a different kind of wildlife.
Whilst tracking down a whistler, which turned out to be an Olive Whistler, I came to a stop at the edge of a clearing in a Snow Gum forest among which some bushy shrubs of a variety of Callistemon with small cream flowers were growing. Behind me, I heard the faint rustling of an animal moving through the grass, but as I turned, it moved behind a callistemon bush near by. I stood watching for a moment and out from behind the bush slowly, carefully came a fox and there we stood staring at each other . I must have been in his regular pathway as he appeared to be trying to decide whether to make a run for it and dash past me, but he dicided to disappear at a slow trot! But I could still hear him! Walking now away to my right, moving over the leaves and twigs on the forest floor and out of sight behind the callistemon nushes but going around them towards the direction I had been facing and which, incidentally my feet were still facing! I had not dared to do more than so much as turn my head. Sure enough he came into view from the other side of the bushes.

contd...pp4

HOLMES PLAIN BIRDLIFE. contd....

He was walking in a most relaxed and totally unconcerned manner, moving across the clearing no more than 20ft. infront of where I was standing and disappeared along a well defined track through the timber on the far side of the clearing. He was a fairly ordinary fox, the more common red coat, with a beautiful black brush of a tail and was probably no more than a couple of years old. Suddenly my whistler called again, almost overhead, and there he was in full view, probably wondering what fascinated me so.

Jane Purbrick.

EXCURSION TO SILVER CREEK TREE FARM. 28/4/79

A cold clear morning greeted members of the L.V.F.N.C. assembled at the McDonald's Track turnoff to meet Mr Robin Cromer of the CSIRO Division of ForestResearch, our leader for the days excursion.

We enjoyed the fine views along McDonalds Track approaching Coalville. the first stop was at Golden Gully, the A.P.M's Silver Creek Tree Farm, where the first plantings of Pinus radiata were made in 1956. The first radiata pine seed orchard at Golden gully was planted in 1960 and consists of 30 clones (a collection of individuals vegetatively produced from a single tree) derived from an elite tree in New Zealand and other states in Australia. Trees at Golden Gully and other early seed orchards were produced by grafting, however a technique has now been developed to raise cu-tings and later orchards have been established in this way.

Cones can be harvested from about the age of 6 or 7.Cones take two years to become mature and picking is generally done from a mobile platform.

We continued along the beautiful tree lined Ten Mile Creek road to the village area of the Silver Creek Tree Farm. Mr Cromer took us to see an experimental plantation containing 18 months old Mountain Ash (E.regnans) which were raised from seed collected in different areas of Victoria and Tasmania. Experiments have been carried out with the application of fertilisers, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus. Control trees i.e. no fertilisers used, grew 1.5 metres in 11 months, trees grown with a combination of nitrogen and phosphorus grew 2 metres in 11 months and were of more uniform growth. The shortest trees were grown from seed collected at Mt Erica, where the climate is colder, while the tallest trees were grown from seed collected at low elevations in Victoria and Tasmania.

Fertilisers are used in the first year following establishment of eucalypts. Doses of up to 2 tonnes of superphosphate and 400 Kg of urea per Ha are being tried experimentally.

The next plot we visited was the first Eucalyptus regnans seed orchard to be planted in Australia (1970). The best of 5 seedlings was retained in each case. Each block consisted of trees raised from 40 different parent trees, each repeated 16 times. Fertiliser trials showed that heavily fertilised trees grew best and yielded most seed.

contd..... pp 5

EXCURSION TO SILVER CREEK TREE FARM 28/4/79 contd...

Harvesting seed from eucalypts may be by cutting off branches, or by felling the tree, this is still to be experimented with. At wide spacingsMountain Ash (E.regnans) will flower at the age of about 7 years, and in the natural state has a peak flowering period of about once in every 4 years.

The young Mountain Ash seed orchard with widely spaced trees provided an attractive place for a picnic lunch in the by now warm sun.

Mr Cromer then took us to another plantation where fertiliser trials were carried out. Trees planted were Mountain Ash (E.regnans) Blue G Gum (E.globulus subsp. globulus) and Silvertop (E.sieberi). Groups of trees were fertilised with nitrogen only, with both together, and with trace elements added. The control plot had a basal area of 1.3 sq.metre per ha. at 4½ years of age, while the nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium and trace element plot contained 7.6.sq Metre per ha.

Next was a provenance trial of E.globulus, using seed collected from different regions. Each row was planted with seedlings from a single parent tree. Varieties of Blue gum planted were E.globulus subsp globulus, and E.globulus subsp. bicostata. Trees of Blue Gum (E.globulus subsp. globulus) collected from Huonville in Tasmania grew best in this trial.

The best area visited was a plot of 10 years old Tasmanian Blue Gums (E.globulus subsp. globulus)grown from seed collected in Spain.

Our day at the A.P.M.s tree farms had shown us how healthy trees for pine and eucalypt plantations are being produced.

Club President, Mr Wall thanked Mr Cromer on behalf of the gathering for taking us over the farms and for his explanation of the work being carried out.

C.Lester.
Details supplied by R.Cromer.

PRAWN GREENHOOD.

In JUne 1969, on a club excursion to rosedale South, a greenhood plant was discovered. those present thought the very spent flowers and the tiny leaves indicated Pterostylis pedoglossa . HOwever the habitat was so different from that usually occupied by this palnt that it was decided th watch the plants and get a fresh flower for positive identification. These plants at Rosedale South grow on the top of a sandy knob , while the usual habitat is very wet conditions.

So each year since 1969 and over many months, we have checked the little leaves. While the plants continued to grow we have not seen any sign of flowers.

However, after watching for 8 years,in July 1977 we again found spent flowers; but they were much fresher than last time and we are now sure these little plants are the Prawn Greenhood (Pterostylis pedoglossa)

We checked the seasons over the 8 years and found we had a very wet autumn in 1969. So next time we have a wet autumn we will be sure to check these plants in June. Maybe we will finally get a fresh flower.

Bon Thompson.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 22nd 1979 .

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. June 5th. We spent much time considering all aspects of the film show which had been arranged.
Members to help with supper, arranging exhibits, help clean up etc.
The Secretary had received posters and leaflets, magazines etc to assist in our efforts. Advertising arranged.
We can only hope for a successful evening.

V.O.R.G.Survey on Orange Bellied Parrot.

We had been approached to see if we were interested to take part in this survey. It is to take place on two days. June 3rd and August 12th. Members will have assisted already on June 3rd. If you are interested in this project you could contact Mrs Lubcke or Barry Traill.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS will receive notice in this issue of NAturalist. We usually have a small number of these each year in spite of our efforts to remind people of their subscriptions being due.

Bird Recording Officer. Barry Traill attended the meeting and wished to alter the way people would be recording for him. He felt the way at present was only duplicating the grid system . An article for the Naturalist will explain the system in more detail.

Mrs Smith brought another issue to our notice. That is the sorry sight of Birds being damaged, killed by nylon entanglements left by fishermen, It was decided that we write to the local Angling Clubs, and Fisheries and Wildlife requesting that a notice be placed in the booklets issued with each fishing licence.
If you have ever seen a distressed bird to which no help can be given you will be supporting this issue.

Supper Roster JUne 22nd. Mrs Burns Jane Purbrick

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Lubcke on Tuesday June 19th at 7.30 pm. 122a Helen Street MOrwell.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

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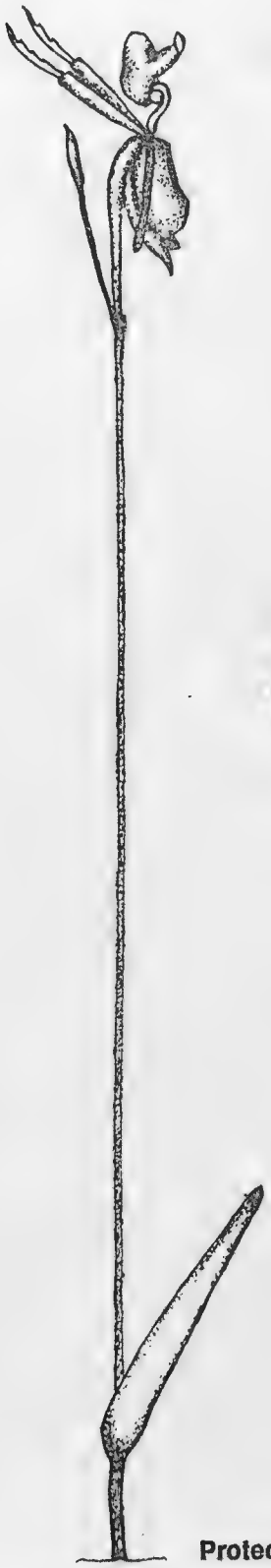

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday July 20th
Mr and Mrs Puckey
"Meanderings through South Australia"

Excursion: Sunday July 22nd
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday July 27th
Mr Buttle (Ranger Tara-Bulga Nat Park)
"Forest Structure"

Excursion: Sunday July 29th to Tara-Bulga Parks

Meeting Place: Traralgon High School at 10.00 am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday August 3rd.
"Club NIght" Members to bring slides or other items of interest.

Excursion: Sunday August 12th to Corner Inlet area . Survey Orange Bellied Parrot.
Contact Secretary for details.

ORANGE BELLIED PARROT SURVEY August 12th to the Corner Inlet area. Contact Mrs Lubeke for details L.V.F.N.C.

TREE SPARROWS AND OTHER COMMON BIRDS.

Answering Barry's query as to whether anyone else has seen Tree Sparrows in the LAtrobe Valley, yes, I have, and so has Mrs Norma Smith at her bird table earlier this year, though they appear to be absent at present.(sightings at Yallourn in both cases).

I first recorded their prescence at my bird table in July 1972 (until then, having regarded all sparrows as House Sparrows with slight variation in colouring), and from thenonwards until February 1977- since which, other committments have prevented more than cursory observation.

The largest of my recorded numbers of Tree Sparrows were eleven in July 1973 and twelve in September 1973. There was a drop in numbers seen in May and June 1974, only two or three being noted in mid-June,a slight increase in July and August of that year - back to about ten, then remaining fairly stable until MArch 1976, when another temporary drop was noted. Having established their prescence to that degree, recordings became less regular - only in April, May, NOvember 1976 and February 1977, all ticked without comment- indicating no significant change in numbers!

Over that period I frequently looked for Tree Sparrows amongst the flock of sparrows, Starlings and mynas (the Mynas in much smaller, but increasing numbers) that daily come from all directions in response to the call 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie', or even withiut it, when pet's mince is put out for the magpies that have been coming for it daily since at least 1970, but failed to identify any. This also applies to the gatherings of the same three kinds of birds and from one to eight Spotted Turtle-doves that daily partake of thrown out seed from my aviary and spend much of their time about what was, until recently, a garden to which birds (Australian for preference)were encouraged.

Since reading Barry's question, I have again scanned the latter flock as often and for as long as time permitted, but have only been able to positively identify two Tree Sparrows on each of two occasions, one of these being a half-hour use of binoculars. There seems to be no doubt that birds sense eyes on them- time after time I had only just focused either spectacled eye or binoculars on one when it flew up in alarm, with spontaneous similar reaction from the whole flock, of course, and apart from the twotwos mentioned, before I could identify the Tree Sparrow's cheek-patch. Some birds appear to have a chestnut head and shoulders, but no cheek patch. I grant them the doubt of being House Sparrows with a slight variation of colouring -mistakenly , perhaps. The whole flock has become much more easily scared since the denuding of my garden, having previously behaved as though they belonged here. My frequent abscences over large parts of the days probably largely account for this; but, be that as it may, my wide back verandah is taken over by sparrows the moment my back is turned - hundreds flew out as she approached, said a visitor. Poor Cocky only gets seed that he(or she)? eats as soon as it is put out - the spa-rows make short work of the rest.

Honor Crane.

A further article about birds by Mrs Crane will be in a later issue.
Ed.

A TRIP TO WEST AUSTRALIA.

Illustrated talk by J&N Brooks 25/5/79

Mr and Mrs Brooks had been planning their trip to West Australia for months and after several last minute delays they set off in gale-like conditions on 13th July . On reaching Adelaide they were informed that the inland was experiencing a drought and were advised to skip that part of the planned trip and stay close to the coast... This they decided todo. The slides we were shown were of their trip to Perth and northern areas. The homeward trip would be covered on another evening.

The trip across from the South Australian border to the West Australian border was of great interest the whole time. The landscapes, great areas of granite, sand, salt lakes etc etc. The area overlooking the Great Australian Bight is a high plateau with steep rugged cliffs and no beach at all. Not many flowers, but what there were created interest. By this time our travellers thought they were very close to the border but were amazed to discover they were only half way there !!!

Several slides of a young man leading a camel and cart with a camel packhorse were amusing. This fellow had intended riding the camel from Alice Springs to Kalgoorlie, however the camel had other ideas!!! So the poor man had to walk the whole way leading the camel. He was taking it all in good part. Just as well the highway is a good road,so even if his journey was long it was not so arduous.

We saw Kalgoorlie mines and town and then on to Coolgardi. This town is a ghost town with the beautifully built Town Hall now a museum for tourists.The flora was Acacia rossi and various eucalypts. The eucalypts were beautiful for their colouring, twisted trunks making for some most interesting slides. Wave Rock is another feature along the way, this massive outcrop of Granite has an overhang of about15 metres. It has the appearance of a breaking wave, being vertically streaked by water stains of grey, ochre and red. Other rocks in the reserve such as the "Hippo's Yawn" are outstanding but the most awe inspiring one by far is Wave Rock, The surrounding area is very interesting and Orchids P.nana and P.vittata were found. the trees were mainly Mallee .

Continuing along the Eyre Highway towards Tammin a stop was made at Kokobin Rock. This is another remarkable rock formation, these slides showed the colouring very well. Flowers were of interest also here. The sandplain Woody pear Xylomelon angustifolium, the lovely orange Banksia prinotes. A lovely stand of the skirted grass-trees complete with spears Xanthorrhoea reflexa was growing in the middle of a wheat field. The Rose of the West Euc. macrocarpa was flowering , and a close-up shot of the beautiful red flowers was outstanding. The pink Grevillea insignis was growing in gravel and seemed to be a very hardy palnt. A slide of Petrophile biloba reminded the Brooks of the fact that 90 % of all W.Aust. plants were prickly!! . Banksia grandis was not one of the prickly ones. This tree grows to 15 metres and is a real giant as the name implies. Euc. wandoo grows well here, the slide shown illustrated the marked trunk more than usual.

contd...pp 3

A TRIP TO WEST AUSTRALIA. contd...

Several slides of Perth were shown, then we went north . there were many flowers , the Smoke Bush Conospermum stoechardia ,Banksia hookeriana, Daviesa incrassata. there were all sorts of "Egg and Bacon " plants .... all looking very interesting but so difficult to identify. There was an interesting slide of an old eucalypt that had fallen, but not died and was still growing in a horizontal position with the branches growing vertically upwards. Further into the Banksia country the beautiful Banksia, B. menziesii the yellow form was found.

A trip was made to Kalbarri National Park along the coast north of Geraldton. This park has a beach frontier and the layers of sandstone are most vivid, alternating lines of brown rock, and softer sandstones of yellow red and white, form streaks on the cliffs. The rocks have been eroded by the wind and sea over the ages and seeping water has created rock cavities with stalactites. Other rocks are honeycombed while others are mushroom shaped. The views of the whole coastline were outstanding. Further inland the same Park is a sandplain and the white-plumed Grevillea G.leuconteris copper cups Pileanthus peduncularis, the violet calytrix and yellow Leschenaultia were found. The Murchison River has cut a most spectacular gorge through the park. The red sandstone cliffs on either side are 152 metres high and run for about 80 Km!! Eroding rocks are a feature and there are "windows" that photographers use as a frame for pictures. It must be an artists dream area and no doubt the Aborigines of the area had their legends about this magnificent gorge. Movement in the rocks in bygone days have left the rock strata at different angles .. a wonderful sight. Trees are growing in bare rocks don't seem to have any soil, the roots have obviously found their way to nutriment.

The area near Geraldton has long been known for its flowers, and even though Mr and Mrs Brooks visited the area in drought conditions they still found plenty of flowers they had never seen before. Dryandra, Kangaroo Paw, Cats Paw, Hibbertia, Hakea, Banksia, Wax-flower, Grevillea, Darwinia, Orchids. Drosera species ranging from miniature to the giants, also Trigger plants for which the West is famous for. The leaning Gums at Greenough were photographed.

A trip to the Nambung National Park to the Pinnacles was very interesting. This park is unique and a very fragile area. Travellers are not permitted to deviate from the track as this would encourage others to do the same. The sand is forever on the move and has in older times covered the trees and their roots to form this more or less "Petrified Forest" even deep in the valley these "trees" aresstanding.

The slide of Mangles Kangaroo Paw Anigosanthos manglesii, the floral emblem of W.A. was a fitting finale to an evening of outstanding slides. This made all of us yearn to do a similar trip sometime in the future.

Iris Peterson.

THAT DAY AT DINGO CREEK.

In response to an appeal from Andy Knorr and his friends down Wonyip way, who are concerned at the imminent logging of the catchment of Dingo Creek, two Leongatha parties joined the local conservationists when they met to put their case before officers of the Forests Commission on 11th February.

Dingo Creek is a tributary of the Agnes River, both of them modest streams rising up near the Grand Ridge Road north of Toora and the tin-mine area, flowing down toward the coast through deep valleys.
We left the Midland Highway for the Dingo Creek road, a mere goat track, swishing aside the ferns and blackberries in a steep downhill run to a pretty and neglected picnic spot at the junction of these two small streams. We were told later that there are plans afoot for a dam wall at this spot.

From there the track swirled steeply upward, with glimpses of lovely ferns among the usual bush shrubbery, until we came out on a high saddle known as Littlejohns, after the original settler. Abondoned farmland, it is now owned by the F.C.(and one old horse,)so, by the kind permission of both we lunched in comfort beneath the welcome shade of(you've guessed it) a row of ancient homestead pines. ON this lovely day we had an eagle's eye view of all the surrounding country including Corner INlet.

We met the various members of the party, some of them already known to us, as fine a gathering of guys and gals as one would meet in a days march. As the numbers swelled we made a typical Mum, Dad and the kids sort of crowd, about ten cars full all told. In the days of the hardy pioneers all the catchment of Dingo Creek had been stripped bare and the regrowth was somewhat patchy. The valley floors are again filled with Mountain Ash and blackwoods sheltering rich masses of tree ferns, but some of the spurs bear nothing but a dense blanket od dogwood and silver wattlemixed with bracken. Dotted round the horizon the bare homestead hilltops long abondoned, catch the eye.

It is a pity to see areas of considerable conservation value, such as this water catchment, being gobbled up before the Land Conservation Council Study of South Gippsland2. has a chance to assess it and to test public opinion. As a forest or State Park, suggested boundaries (ready made)would be the Midland Highway on one side; perhaps as far as the Foster/Gunyah road on the other side; the Grand Ridge road across the top and the proposed water storage at the lower end. Any areas lacking eucalypt cover could be reafforested.

Nothing in the way of parks or reserves has so far been set aside on the southern fall of the range. Tarra and Bulga Parks further east are minuscule and sadly over crowded in the holiday season, which willsoon be all the year round. Dingo Creek is quite close to the highway townships of Foster, Toora and Welshpool. Even the small waterfalls in the hills already attract many visitors.

Being controlled by the Forests Commission, however, they, within their rights, have given the go-ahead to the millers to open up the area and log any worthwhile timber preparatory to clearing and planting with either pines or hardwoods.

contd...pp 5

THAT DAY AT DINGO CREEK. contd....

At 2 pm, as arranged, Mr Paterson arrived with the regional Superintendant, Mr Edgar, from Traralgon. They alighted and eyed us warily, no doubt mentally sorting the genuine mountaineers in the crowd from the ring-ins and friends of the family! Introductions were made and dialogue commenced. The Foresters relaxed and there was long and reasonable discussion. Everyone was able to put their views and get a fair hearing. Mr Edgar explained, very patiently, that certainly the logging and clearing will look a mess for a few years but that ultimately there will be a far finer forest than the present rate of natural regeneration can possibly provide.(Looking at the developing ash forests along the roads on the way home we were inclined to agree with him. As the trees grow the effect of manmade plantings in neat rows tends to be lost in the general bulk of the forest.)

Someone asked that logging operations be halted for a few weeks until the situationis reviewed but this was refused. Questions were asked as to the fate of the animal life in the bush under the clear felling, but I think there is no satisfactory answer to this one.
There is no doubt that most of them, deprived fof their territories, will perish, but their places will gradually fill again as the developing eucalypts provide suitable habitat.

The question then narrowed down. Would it be pines or eucalypts that future generations will be looking at in the great valley of Dingo Creek ? Finally, a compromise seemed to be reached, whereby only Mountain Ash would be planted in the catchment instead of pines.
Proper submissions are to be prepared and put before the Forests Commission. And so, after the votes of thanks and some afternoon tea we went our ways, with some hope for the future of this battered landscape.

E.LYNDON

BIRD RECORDING PROJECT.

As bird Recording Officer, I have decided to change the method of recording for the Club's Bird Recording Project. In this years January issue of the Naturalist I gave details of how to record birds using a 10 minute grid similar to the R.A.O.U. ' Bird Atlas'. I have decided to discontinue using this method as it is merely duplicating what the Bird Atlas is doing and does not allow lists for specific areas to be compiled and so only giving a general idea of bird distributions.

Instead of using a grid system I will now accept lists for specific areas. For example the Morwell National Park, Boola Atate Forest, Lake Reeve; any area large or small which can be defined from other areas. Areas from which lists would be most useful are places which can be visited regularly and places which are or in the future could be threatened in some way.

As before I want lists only from Warragul to Bairnsdale and the Divide to the sea. For areas which are visited regularly a list can be sent in for every 3 month season. Otherwise send in a list for each visit giving the date. Lastly if any breeding birds are noted they should be noted on the list as breeding records are important in establishing the conservation value of an area.

contd...pp6.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 19th 1979 .

The Club will take part in the census for the Orange-bellied Parrot. The next day will be Sunday August 12th to the Corner Inlet area. Mrs LUbcke has agreed to be the contact for this project.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. the film evening was a great success. Both the Traralgon and L.V.F.N.C. have some new members from the evening. There were some monies over after the expenses were paid, these will be sent to the A.C.F. as a donation.
To all who helped to make this evening such a success we thankyou most sincerely. The effort was well worth it.

COOLART. This property is now belonging to the people of Victoria. Visitors may go to see this unique area. Decided that we should look into visiting the area some time. Perhaps in next years programme or as an extra excursion ?

Publications received. ECOS , SGAP Maroondah Group newsletter.

The Conservation Co-ordinator Mrs Thompson was the guest on the T.V. programme "Access" recently. We consider it a great honour to have had Mrs Thompson appear on this programme.

Several members visited an area of bush near Yallourn recently.
It is thought that the area could be a reserve, as it contains much of th the natural growth of the area taken up by the open cut.
Discussion to take place with the S.E.C.regarding the area.

Supper Roster July 27th, Mrs Wall, Mrs Reeves.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday July 24th at the home of Mr and Mrs McElroy, 35 Latrobe Road , MOrwell . at 7.30 pm.

Any interested members of the club are welcome at these meetings.

We received a thankyou note from Mrs Sterkenburg for the flowers, cards and visits from members while she was in hospital recently.

BIRD RECORDING PROJECT. contd...

If this is to become a successful long term project I must have more people sending in lists. The effort and time is well spent if we can record and observe changes in bird distribution and help conserve areas for their continued preservation.
Lists can be sent to Barry Traill, 99 Vincent Road, Morwell 3840.

Barry Traill.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523 792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS
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Mr C.Lester
61 Strzelecki Road
YALLOURN 3538

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99 Chamberlain Road
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday August 17th
Mr Eric Reinertsen (Nat Park Ranger Mount North)
"National Parks ofVictoria"
especially the newer ones.

EXCURSION: Sunday August 19th
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday August 24th

SPEAKER: Mr A.Ringin
"Along the Gun Barrel Highway "

EXCURSION: Saturday August 25th to Edward Hunter Reserve and Willow Grove Road

MEETING PLACE: Moe Folk MUseum at 10.00 am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday September 14th . Please note change in date.

SPEAKER: Mrs Vincent "Terns "

EXCURSION: To be arranged, Contact Secretary for details.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CONSERVATION GROUP.

Excursion to Bald Hills on sunday September 9th.
Meet at Tarwin Lower at 10.00 am. visitors welcome.

RARE PARROTS.

On Sunday June 3rd, eleven members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club took part in a search for the Orange-bellied Parrot. This was in response to a request from Mr Richard Loyn who is engaged in a census study of the parrot. Two dates, Sunday 3rd June, and Sunday 12th August, had been selected for a simultaneous coverage of as many areas as possible. Our group decided to make a searchon the first date in an area near the causeway across Lake Reeve at Loch Sport.

The Orange-bellied Parrot species is very rare and diminishing in numbers. It's distribution is Tasmania, Bass Strait Islands and Coastal Southern Australia. It breeds in S.W.Tasmania in November and December. The preferred habitat seems to be dune vegetation, saltmarsh backed by long or short grassland, or weedy paddocks.

The area we had chosen seemed highly suitable, but we had no succes However five members of the group had the gratifying experience of flushing up a Swamp Parrot - a bird possibly as rare (certainly as interesting) as the one we had set out to find.

There are only two ground-living parrots in Australia: the Swamp Parrot and the Night Parrot. Both species are now rare, the Night Parrot exceedingly so, for it has not been reliably recorded for more than 50 years and it was believed to be extinct.

It was something of a coincidence that on the very day following our sighting of the Swamp Parrot a news item appeared in the press stating that the Night Parrot had been rediscovered in S.A's far north.

Both parrots are closely related and resemble each other in habit and appearance. they nest on the ground and spend most of their time on the ground, rarely if ever perching in trees. They both have dumpy bodie with green, yellow streaked plumage. The main difference between them is their choice of habitat. TheNight Parrot occurs in restricted and scattered localities in spinifex areas of arid inland Australia. The Swamp Parrot on the other hand prefers marshy heathland near the coast of S.W.and S.E.Australia, including Tasmania.

The Swamp Parrot has long legs which enable it to run very quickly rather than to move with the usual parrot waddle, and it has such a strong scent that dogs can follow it.

Our observers were fortunate in flushing it up several times for the bird is very shy, and if once flushed it usually dives back imto cover and is difficult to flush again.

June Lubcke.

REPORT OF TRIP TO MOONLIGHT CREEK 26/5/79.

About 12 cars assembled at the meeting place at 10.00am to start our day under the able leadership of Mr and Mrs Brooks. We left Darnum to what was to be a very pleasant excursion. Our first stop was on the Dingley Dell cut-off road for a look at the Slender Tree-fern, this is a new discovery in this area although by the size of the fern it has been there a long time. Then on to our stopping place where most of us had an early lunch to save carrying too much up the track we were going to take. Mr Brooks led one group and Mrs Brooks led the other who were mostly "birdos", I haven't got a list of their finds but by the general discussion later I feel they were very pleased with what they had seen. Everyone was happy with the lovely gullies filled with ferns and trees. Mrs Lyndon found lots of fungi which she was able to give names to.The following list was compiled by her, for which I am most thankful. Velvet Foot (Collybia velutipes) on tree trunks, Mycenas with hairy feet - many lovely species like little parasols.Laccaria laccata nondescript brown toadstools all along the track, Heliotriumcitrinum - tiny yellow dots on pieces of wood. Sulphur tops (Hyphloma fasiculare) on wood in clusters, Peziza scutellaria- tiny orange cups with long lashes. Sterium species - creamy fans on wood. Pleurotus viscidulus oyster mushrooms spoon shaped on wood, Ganoderma - large brackets up on trees.Artists Fungus , the white underside makes a good note pad!

Some of the group went on to the Courtenay Falls, hard going but apparently worth it, that is where the Eagles Nest was to be seen. We saw none of the huge South Gippsland Worms but there were many holes right through the area, a lot of time would be needed to dig right down to where they actually reside, but they can be heard "gurgling" far below.

Sassafras grows in profusion through the gullies and we found several patches of Fieldia growing on trunks of trees mostly in the more overgrown places. It is hoped that by the time further transactions are completed that this lovely Mt Worth National Park will cover approximately 2 square miles. A very happy group departed from the scene somewhere about 4 pm after saying thankyou to our leaders of the day.

Norine Puckey.

Later note. The Puckey and Brooks families visited the area on the following Friday and with machettes cut two new tracks down into another gully finishing at a most spectacular Mountain Ash. It is hard to say how high it was but the butt was enormous.

This could be the subject of another excursion? Ed.

IN SEARCH OF WILDFLOWERS OVERSEAS.

Address by Miss Jean Galbraith.

To call the evening a talk would be a misnomer, it was a sharing of a holiday. As one member present said - she had heard many talks of trips to England and she wondered if Miss Galbraith had visited the same country, as she had seen so much more beauty. I cannot hope to report the whole trip as told by Miss Galbraith; but must content myself with just snatches of it. Miss Galbraith had slides to illustrate the trip, but as she was not a photographer the slides she would have liked to buy were not available. However she was very grateful to Mr Wall for the loanof some of his slides. The talk was interspersed with amusing incidents such as when Miss Galbraith and her nephew were so engrossed in the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens that they had to run to avoid being shut in for the night.

The trip began with a description of the panoramic view of central Australia from the air. The first flowers of the trip were the blue, yellow and scarlet flowers on the runway at Athens airport. These were probably wild poppies, pink convolvulus and various crucifers as these are common wildflowers near Athens. Over the alpine areas there were no visible flowers as the snow was still everywhere on the mountains and the valleys were still sodden after the thaw.

The first sight of England was the Thames valley with fields of rape with their yellow flowers amongst the green pastureland all the way to Heathrow. But the first flowers seen closeup were the roadside flowers near a small English village. The first bird was an English robin nesting in the garden where Miss Galbraith stayed. On the walk to church next day 20 or so species of wildflowers were identified on the roadside.

During the trip Miss Galbraith visited several public gardens and flower shows. The first was the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisely with their native woods, rhododendrons, lovely red tulips interspersed with blue forget-me-nots, rock gardens, island beds and English wildflowers along a small stream by the rock garden. The Chelsea flower show is the most noteable flowershow in England. It is held in the very large grounds of Chelsea Hospital. They are bordered on two sided with Horse-chestnuts in flower at the time of the trip.
There were many outdoor exhibits and a marquee covering 7 acres. Commercial nurseries had displays. Not only were spring flowers blooming; but also autumn flowers - Daffodils and Chrysanthemums were side by side, also Delphiniums and Begonias. Even in London along the Thames embankment were Laburnums and Lilacs. Leicester Square was an oasis within the city with its trees, flower beds and peaceful atmosphere covering the whole city block.

Of to the Cotswold countryside, staying at Olton. Near OLton mere were sheets of Bluebells and many water birds on the lake. Daisies and Buttercups bloomed on the nature strips of the streets. In places like Chipping Campton and Broadway we saw old buildings erected in 1100 and 1200 Adan old Church at Lapworth with little gardens around it, and along the nearby canal Lords and Ladies flowered beside the pathway,

contd...pp 4

IN SEARCH OF WILDFLOWERS OVERSEAS. contd....

The general impression of the Cotswolds was a mixture of lovely trees, beautiful architecture and quietness. Slides of this area showed the villages with old buildings and beautiful trees and gardens.

Stirling was visited with its impregnable castle, lovely old bridge and the wildflowers of Scotland. A trip on Loch Lomond provided much beauty of landscape. She lived for a week on the edge of Airthrey Castlewoods with Willowherbs, Bluebells, English trees and about 50 species of wildflowers that Miss Galbraith was able to identify.

At Faulkland Castle the gardens were lovely with perennials, the cutting house was visited also. At Edinburgh Botanical gardens Victoria regina lilies with leaves often 3 ft wide grew in pools in the glass-house. Other interests in this area were Culcruch Castle the ancestral home of the Galbraith clan, pheasants feeding in the fields and lovely country roads.

Miss Galbraith visited Inverness, passing fields of Gorse and Heather, though the Heather was not in flower, as it blooms in autumn. On to Thurso on the edge of the North Sea. Then back to Inverness and across to the west coast to beautiful Inverewe gardens on Loch Ewe. The whole garden is on a rocky promontory and 3 generations ago soil had to be carried in creels to fill the crevices in the rocks ready for planting. The first sight of the garden was Australian gum trees, followed by sky blue poppies, Lampshade poppies, a rose garden, flowering shrubs, rhododendrons and innumerable other species of trees.

The wonderful wildflowers of Switzerland were the next part of the trip. Miss Galbraith went to up Mt Pilatus Summit where flowers were only yet blooming on areas too steep to hold the snow. She went up in the funicular which is the steepest in the wirld, and down by cable car. On the way down Miss Galbraith left the cable car at the first stop Frakmenalp, and investigated a snow meadow for an hour finding Gentians, Anemonies, Primulas and many other alpine flowers. IN the middle of the town of Engleburg about 2 acres of native wildflowers are kept undisturbed thus providing a beautiful picture of blue pink, purple, yellow, etc. in the spring.

On return to England, Essex was visited with poppies and Oxeye Daisies in the corners of the cornfields. White Cow Parsnip was in bloom at this time of spring, whereas filmy Cow Parsely was in bloom before the Switzerland trip.

Devon provided Robins bathing in the garden and fish rising in the nearby River Exe and of course many flowers.Then Slimbridge which is near Gloucester to see its wonderful Wildfowl snnctuary; Flamingoes, ducks, geese, snow geese and many others. Free birds were fed with grain and fed unhesitatingly from one's hands.

On to Wales with all its natural beauty with heaths on the moors; but no heather at this time. Down by the sea even the sand dunes carried pink Wild Thyme, Sea Pinks, Orchids and many others. Oxford had many beautiful buildings and the Botanic Gardens where plants are grown in families.

contd....pp. 5

INSEARCH OF WILDFLOWERS OVERSEAS. contd...

A bus trip while in the Lakes District provided beautiful slides with Foxgloves, Rosebay Willowherb and many others.

Kew Gardens with the herbarium, the alpine house and the many gardens provided a happy day. At Regents Park more beautiful gardens, including Queen Mary's Rose Garden and borders of english wildflowers. The last day near London was spent at StAlbans with its market and its beautiful abbey. A dig, being carried out near the abbey, unearthed mosaic flooring of a Roman building that had been hidden for probably 1,000years.

It is easy to see why the trip was so full of beauty; all places visited were chosen because of the renown of their flowers or their natural beauty.

Bon Thompson.

MORE COMMON BIRDS.

Last year, I noted large flocks of Starlings and a number of Indian Mynas at and about "Caringal", my future place of residence at Traralgon, but did not see any sparrows. Now, starlings, mynas AND SPARROWS are regular visitors there (probably because I put out food for the magpies that were there before I was and nest in my largest eucalypt (a Red Gum), but I have not observed any Tree Sparrows amongst them. Maybe they will come - I shall look out for them.

After only a few occasions of feeding the "Caringal" magpies they began to either await my arrival or fly in as the vehicle (not always my own, but with me in it) climbed the drive, or very soon after. Now, some mynas often 'beat them to it'- and ,I regret to say, get more than their share of the offering that is soon forthcoming.The magpies look so downcast if I forget to bring their mince (as I occasionally do) that I feelmost horribly guilty, especially while partaking of my own meal with perhaps five magpies watching me through the large,only side curtained window.

Throughout last nesting season we had to be on the alert for swooping parents, particularly the mother, but one of their babies is now the tamest of the five regular visitors. Over the intervening months it has spent hours, day after day, sitting on a post (at first a more distant one, now often quite close to the house) very quietly practising its warbling.

Will the swooping re-occur when nesting time comes again, I wonder, or will the regular feeding have taught the recipients that I mean them no harm! The Yallourn parents made no attempt to swoop, brought their babies to the food I put out, and even fed them while I stood a short distance away and watched. I fed the same birds regularly for years, I fear the younger generations must have fallen victim to traffic for after visiting regularly, they suddenly disappeared, one by one.
I hope the same fate does not await my "Caringal" friends.

Honor Crane.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JULY 24th 1979.

Publications received: C.C.V Newsletter
Victorian Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist
Photoflora 1980.

Decided that we would not stage Photoflora as we could not gguarantee the audience required . We would support any showing of Photoflora in our area. Also we would have the Miniphotoflora slides when they come available.

NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION. We were advised that Miss Helen Ashton has been awarded the medallion for this year. The L.V.F.N.C. had nominated Miss Ashton for the award.

Final arrangements made for the Orange-bellied Parrot survey. This will have concluded when the Naturalist is printed.

Advice from South Gippsland Conservation Group of their coming excursions. These will be printed each month . We are to go with Mrs Lyndon to the Dingo Creek area on October 13th. More details later on.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR.
Submission to L.C.C. re the Grampians area South Western Victoria.
This and all other submissions are available for members to read at any time. Mrs Thompson spends a lot of time on these submissions and they are on our behalf after all.

Supper Roster August 24th; Mrs Crane Mrs Smith.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday August 21st at the home of Mrs Crane, Lidiards Road ,Traralgon at 7.30 pm.
Interested members are welcome at these meetings.

BIRD NOTES FROM LAKES ENTRANCE.

Vin Barton phoned me about the Orange-bellied Parrot census; then Iheard from Richard Loyn about it. Of course there are miles of seemingly suitable habitat along the East Gippsland coast. Patricia Knell (infant welfare sister at Lakes) and I spent from 7am to 2.30pm on and about the golf course and surroundings, and from Lake tyers beach for 4 or 5 Km's to the east along the old coach road on the inside of the outer barrier.This was in perfect weather ,but neither Orange-bellied nor Blue-winged parrots were located, but we enjoyed ourselves and saw some new birds. Lewin waterrail and White-fronted terns were both new to both of us; Striated field wren and Emu wrens to Tricia.

Joy Johnstone.

These are extracts from a letter to Miss Jean Galbraith.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 525 792	

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COMING EVENTS .

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday 21st September
SPEAKER	Dr G. Westcott (Director C.C.V.) " Activities of C.C.V."
EXCURSION	Sunday 23rd September Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday 28th September
SPEAKER:	Mr and Mrs Thompson " Orchids"
EXCURSION	Saturday 29th September
MEETING PLACE	Traralgon High School at 10.00 am Exact locality of excursion to be decided later.
SPECIAL EXCURSION:	Saturday October 13th to Bald Hills area.
MEETING PLACE	Meeniyan at 10.00 am Mrs Lyndon to be leader.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday October 5th
SPEAKER	Mrs E.Lyndon " ABORIGINES"
EXCURSION 7th October	To Dingo Creek area Contact Secretary for details

South Gippsland Conservation Society

Excursion Sunday October 7th to Bell Park and the Gurdies.
Meet at Bell Park Roadhouse at 10.00 am.

TRIP TO SOUTH CASCADE.

Sunday 25th June 1979, a cold foggy morning and members were to meet at Parkers Corner enroute for South Cascade Creek. For some members this was to be a nostalgic occasion as the original walk through South Cascade had been cut by members in 1965.

A search of our earliest newsletters reveals that club members led by Jim Peterson and Graham Marshall were working at Cascade Creek in 1965 and for at least a couple of years prior to that working bees cleared a narrow walking track, up the further slope to the tramway and along that route to rejoin the road again. The timber bridges and the beautiful curved viaduct across South Cascade Creek were still in place then, the longest and best trestle bridge being 60 ft. above the stream, but all were considered unsafe. Blackberries had already engulfed much of the tramway track. Our newsletter in March 1965 contains papers on the vegetation and an account of a trip to the Mushroom Rocks from Mt Erica Car Park.

On this occasion our first stop was Duller Point where we viewed the Thomson River Dam Project. This huge project is set deep in the valley and from our vantage point we were able to get some idea of the immense area of water that will be stored there. Some of our members were delighted at seeing a lyre bird cross the road here.

Moving on to South Cascade Creek we enjoyed a late morning cup of tea. Breaking into groups we set off into the scrub, some in search of birds, others under the leadership of Mrs Lyndon to seek out fungi, lichen and ferns. Risking gum boots filled with water we crossed Cascade Creek to wind our way deeper into the bush.

Cascade Creek is a lichen lovers paradise, and weird and wonderful are the species that grow there.There were also ferns and delightful velvet green cushions of mosses. In earlier years members had specialists like Rex Filson and Bruce Fuhrer to introduce them to these wonders the plants have rather jaw-breaking names, although some of these are quite apt when translated. We saw Cladonias, notable for pale green pixie caps, Baeomyces, a pale green wash on clay banks, dotted with dull pink fungal heads. Steriocaulons were the dainty grey tufts with red fungal "fruits",Sticta includes the staghorn types, there were long trails of Usnea, one of the few with a common name "old mans beard".
Peg Wall came up with a dull grey-purple Umbilicaria nestling in a tuft of green moss, on the back of the thallus(or body) were hairy black root like rhizines.

Lichens are composed of two organisms growing in association, a blue green alga and a fungus. they are classified according to the fungal component.To put it simply the alga does the food producing and the fungus sets the fruiting heads. The alga involved -and there are over 30 species - can live independently, but the specialist fungus must unite with an algal cell or perish.

contd...pp 2

TRIP TO SOUTH CASCADE. contd...

Most lichens are able to reproduce vegetatively, that is, they can grow a new plant from fallen bits and pieces. Much research remains to be done on them, here is a fascinating field for the ambitious young naturalist who might wish to specialize. Good lichen men are few and far between!

We also saw a wealth of mosses pinned to ancient beech butts and rocks by Finger Fern Grammitis billadieri.The mosses were heaped in verdant mounds on granite boulders, trailing down the sides in company with the Alpine Filmy Fern,Hymenophyllum peltatum. At least 20 species of fern grace the creek at South Cascade. Fungi was disappointingly scarce, no doubt due to the lateness of the season and the cold -- Ice filled the cracks in the road culverts.

After wandering along for some time the pangs of hunger began to make their presence felt and so to find our way back to the car park. This did not prove as easy as anticipated, scrambling over masses of fallen timber, walking along slippery logs, carefully stepping between boulders and into deep leaf mulch nearly to the tops of our gum boots, making our way down the steep hillside we eventually reached the road to be confronted by a 3 metre drop. Aided by a rope we slithered down to road level feeling more like rock climbers than bush walkers.

Mrs Lyndon displayed the fungi she had collected. Fungi are mainly wood destroyers and with so much fallen timber as South Cascade the fungi had much work to do.Records show that a bad fire swept through the Talbot and probably Cascade Creek country in February 1932 and doubtless there have been bad fires since. Even as far back as the 1850's the packers delivering tucker to the scattered gold prospectors were having trouble getting their horses over the wet mass of logs in the same way we did on "Shanks' Ponies".

Fungi seen were Clavariadelphus funceous - like pink cotton, Horse hair fungus Marasmus equicrinis, both on fallen leaves and sticks, Trametes, the Rainbow Fungi, Sterium, on logs are mainly wood destroyers. The Velvet Foot Collybia velvtipes ,Honey Fungus Armillaria mellea.

Ferns noted were Hard Water Fern,Blechnum wattsii, Strap Water Fern B.patersonii, and Ray Water Fern B.fluviatile.

We also saw several huge Beech Trees, Sassafras, Rough Coprosma, The Christmas bush and Elderberry panax.

Quite a number of birds were sighted by the bird group; notably Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Golden Whistler, White-naped Honeyeater, Lewin Honeyeater, Striated Thornbill and Brown thornbill, White-throated Tree-creeper, Yellow Robin and great excitement caused by the sighting of a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.

Moving on to Mt Erica Car Park we were sorry to find the walking track to the creek was almost obliterated. Lyre-birds had taken over as two active mounds showed and apparently used to visitors the birds oblidged with their lovely liquid song. The very crinkled fern on the rocks in the area was the Austral Filmy fern.
The afternoon closed in so we turned for home ending another day spent in the bush with good company.

Pearl Reeves.

FOREST STRUCTURE.

Talk by Mr Buttle 27/7/79

Mr Buttle a Park Ranger at Bulga Park began his talk on Forest Structure by giving a brief outline of the history of the Strzelecki Forests. Before white-man arrived on the scene, thick Mountain Ash forests covered most of the Strzelecki Ranges above 243 metres(800 ft) The local Aboriginal tribes rarely ventured up into this country, the climate being too cold and wet. . Then came the white man who moved into the ranges and cleared most of the forest covering the hills. Some slides shown by Mr Buttle showed what magnificent trees the early pioneers destroyed.

Bulga and Tarra Valley National Parks were formed to preserve two surviving sreas of the MOuntain Ash forest. We were shown slides ofthe different vegetation levels at the two National Parks and the principal animals and plants which exist at each level.

The canopy in both parks is formed mainly of Mountain Ash (Eucalyptus regnans), which has the distinction of being the tallest flowering plant in the world and taking from 150 to 250 years to reach maturity. The canopies of the two parks differ,Tarra Valley having over mature Mountain Ash, and Bulga Having Mountain Ash which is not yet fully grown Some of the animals living in the canopy were shown, these included both Yellow-tailed Black and Gang Gang Cockatoos and the Sugar Glider.

The understorey of the forest is dominated by the Myrtle Beech, (Nothofagus cunninghamii)with Silver Wattle (Acacia dealbata)and Sassafras (Atherosperma moschatum). Animals found here are the Ringtail POssum, Mountain Possum or Bobuck, Brown Thornbill and Grey Fantail.

Lastly we were shown the forest floor which has the greatest diversity of plants and animals of the three levels.
In the two parks there are the 5 species of Tree-fern, 5 species of Orchids and over 200 species of fungi as well as many other plants. The Tree-fern species are ,Rough, Soft, Slender and Skirted Tree-ferns and the Austral King Fern. These Tree-ferns are a favourite site for epiphytes, filmy ferns, mosses and creepers. Animals that live and feed on the floor are the Echidna, Dusky Antechinus, Copperhead and Tiger snakes and birds including Rufous Fantail, Yellow Robin and of course the Lyrebird.

Mr Buttle showed a second series of slides showing the Tarra Valley reconstruction work which had taken place last year.
In JUne 1978 14 inches of rain fell in 24 hours on the already saturated Tarra River catchment. The result of this was severe flooding of the Tarra River and tributaries., washing away bridges and causing trees and mud slides to block the Tarra Valley Road. In the Tarra Valley Park, log jams blocked the creek, paths were washed away while the footbridges were overturned and in one case disappeared completely.

contd....pp 4

FOREST STRUCTURE. contd...

To repair the damage, Mr Buttle and two other men worked for 3 months to reconstruct the paths and replace the foot-bridges. As no large vehicles could be brought in, the men carted stone and concrete with sheer man power and ingenuity, to build the paths and foundations for the bridges. Even logs of up to one tonne in weight had to be man-handled for the bridges. The work was finished and the park re-opened just in time for Christmas on December 23rd.

Barry Traill.

EXCURSION TO BULGA AND TARRA VALLEY PARKS. 29/7/79

We travelled along the Traralgon South, Balook road, eight cars carrying 22 people ranging in age from the very young to we of the Wanna vintage. It is good to see so many young people joining our club also great to have Mattie Sterkenburg in our midst again.

All must have enjoyed the rugged beauty of the country we travelled through, I for one was filled anew with admiration for the tenacity of our pioneers who tried to tame that wilderness a hundred years ago. Thankful too, was I , that their ambition or folly hadn't carried them into the small patches of country still undisturbed in the Bulga and Tarra ValleyNational Parks. It is in these parks that one can appreciate what the Strzelecki Ranges must have been before European man moved in. Bulga (meaning high place) is in fine shape and many animated discussions arose as we moved along the bush walks, accompanied by Ranger,Tim Buttle. Progress was slow as it should be if one is to see all that is offering. The view from the swing bridge is a sheer delight as the lovely treeferns appear to be laid out as a carpet for bush creatures to play on. The Southern Sassafras was in bloom, filling the air with fragrance, and Fieldia flowers were to be seen but not so plentiful. To the casual observer it is clear that nature is seen at her best here for every discarded twig, leaf or tree trunk is taken care of and adorned in some form of fungi, moss or diminuitive fern. But, listen to the experts and you will hear such gems of knowledge you hadn't dreamed of. The lovely lacey decor on tree trunks are actually such ferns as Bristle, or Finger-fern, Shiny, Filmy or Austral Filmy Fern, and "old man's beard" LIchen.

We lunched at Bulga and were delighted to see Mr Lyrebird stroll nonchantly across the car park. Another birdo's triumph was to feed the Pilot Bird on bread and cheese; Bart shared his lunch with that fellow.

We then travelled on to Tarra where flood damage is still evident. It is obvious that much muscle power was used to rebuild bridges and paths but nature will take care of the rest. Tarra closely resembles Bulga but has more to offer in tree decoration. Liverwort is abundant. I felt that such a lovely fern deserves a prettier name.

contd...pp 5

EXCURSION TO BULGA AND TARRA VALLEY PARKS. contd...

The experts were well satisfied to report finding such gems as Fork fern, Gypsy fern(resembling a wattle seedling)high up on a tree trunk. There are 200 Fungi listed for the parks. those seen were many and varied, I don't know the correct names but I saw them thus - tiny stop lights shining out from green moss, drops of golden sunlight on a sombre rock face, lovely rainbow brackets and a group of silver parasols like something from a fairy tale.

A triumph for all was the sighting of Mrs Lyrebird on her nest, so beautifully camouflaged in masses of fern fronds.
The larger ferns to ,be seen were Lance fern, Mother-shield fern, Hard water fern, Ray fern, Bat's wing, Strap Waterfern, Slender, Rough and Soft Tree ferns. Both parks abound in the magnificent Mountain Ash (Eucalyptus regnans)towering above, as their scientific name implies. The grand old Myrtle Beech fill one with awe (some are estimated to be over 1000 years old) and still have the fortitude to produce new growth.

We finally returned to the car park area where Mr Thompson expressed our gratitude for time given us by ranger Tim Buttle and after a cuppa we went on our various ways. My kind driver was prevailed upon to take the road to Carrajung where magnificient views were to be seen.

Norma Smith.

A VISIT TO McKILLOPS BRIDGE.

On Thursday after Easter 1978, two friends and myself set off on our first trip to McKIllop's Bridge. This bridge crosses the Snowy River between Wulgulmerang and Bonang in NOrth-east Gippsland.

It was mid afternoon when we left Lakes Entrance, where rain was falling steadily, but by the time we neared Gelantipy we had reached an area of sunshine and occasional patches of fog or low cloud.
As we were anxious to have our tent up before dark we did not take the walk in to the Little River Falls, but promised them a visit some other time. We crossed the long bridge just before dark, chose a campsite a short distance up the Deddick River(which joins the Snowy upstream from the bridge) and quickly erected the tent. Settling in was done by lantern light, followed by a meal and chat, then sleep.

During our first walk next day, we found that a sandy beach at the Snowy -Deddick junction, recommended by a canoeist friend as a campsite was thickly coated by sticky mud deposited by a recent flood.

The vegetation of this area is different to that in other parts of Gippsland I know. The only eucalypt we noticed was Euc.albens or White Box. Here, because of the rocky terrain it is a slender, rather spindly tree. Many were in flower and attracting several species of Honey-eater. We ourselves thought the clusters of beautiful silvery-blue buds were more attractive than thesmallish white flowers.

[illegible]

contd.... pp 6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 21st 1979.

ORANGE BELLIED PARROT SURVEY Operation cancelled in this area because of the bad weather.

Special Excursion October 13th. Details finalised as advised by Mrs Lyndon.
There will be an excursion on October 7th with the Traralgon F.N.C. Mrs Lyndon to be the leader. Dingo Creek area is the destination As we are interested in this area , any persons interested will be welcome.
Publications received: Victorian Naturalist
V.F.N.C.A. Minutes

The Secretary advised that she had attended a meeting in Morwell re the area of bushland near Crinigan Road School. It is anticipated that the area will be a bush reserve . An open day was held on Sept. 9th. It was felt that the existing committee did not need our expertise as they had things well under control.

SUPPER ROSTER September 28th Mrs Huxley Mrs Merson

The next committee meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Wall 156 Kay Street Traralgon on Tuesday September 25th at 7.30 pm. Any interested members welcome to attend these meetings.

Press Release: SAVE THE LEOPARD CAMPAIGN.
If you are interested in this campaign to save the Leopard from extinction , you can purchase Leopard Stickers.
Friends of the Earth are selling these stickers.
Contact F.O.E.Burnie, P.O.Box 350, ULVERSTONE Tas. 7315
Cost is $1.60 per sheet of 25 (cost includes p&p)

A VISIT TO MCKILLOPS BRIDGE contd...

The dominant tree however , is the Murray Pine or white Cypress-pine (Callitris columellaris) which grows to about 22metres high and appears quite exotic to eyes more used to Eucalypt forests.
A few Kurrajongs (Brachychiton populneus) and an unidentified acacia were noted. Tea Trees, probably Leptospermum ericoides grow along the streams. There was very little understory, and after the dry, hot summer months , no ground cover plants, except for newly sprouted seedlings germinated by the recent rain. These new plants were only at the baby-leaf stage.

Many of the smaller hills are somewhat conical in shape. Here the Snowy itself is fairly wide and usually shallow. There are many bluish grey boulders and sandy beaches along its course. The Deddick is perhaps more rugged and the rock walls along one side are reddish coloured. Towards Deddick and Bonang, some of the forest has been cleared and carries sheep and beef cattle.

Although light rain fell during Thursday night and Friday morning we were able to spend most of Friday and Saturday hiking, taking photographs and seeing what wild life we could. This was chiefly birds.

Contd... October Issue

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523 792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer — Mr C.Lester, 61 Strzelecki Road, YALLOURN 3838

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Hon Editor — Mrs L.Padfield, 99 Chamberlain Road, NEWBOROUGH 3825.

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COMING EVENTS

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday October 19th
Mr and Mrs Owen, Slides of Antarctica

EXCURSION: Sunday October 21st
Contact Secretary for details

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday October 26th
SPEAKER: Mr Max Yardey, Birds and the bird atlas.

EXCURSION: Saturday October 27th in the Heyfield area.

MEETING PLACE: Heyfield Butter Factory at 10.00 am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday November 2nd
Mr A.Chambers "Birds of Sri Lanka".

EXCURSION Sunday November 4th to Sandy Point area.
Contact SEcretary for details.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY excursion for November will be on 4th November to Wonthaggi Rifle Range. (Heaths) Meet at Wonthaggi Post Office at 10.00 am

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CAMPOUT JANUARY 26, 27, 28 1980 will be to Lankeys Plain on the Dargo High Plains. Keep these dates in mind if interested. Further details in later issues.

OPERATION GREENHOOD.

A rare Greenhood orchid has been growing on the roadside of Traralgon South for many years. As the S.E.C.required the road to be widened and therefore the orchids would be destroyed, it was agreed they would shift the orchids to the site of a proposed reserve.

Preparation was necessary, both of equipment and of the site. A sheet metal plate was prepared by having one edge sharpened to cut through tree roots that may be under the orchids. The plate was reinforced by a length of angle-iron on each of the two opposite edges, with holes at each corner to attach ropes.

On the day of the transfer, a truck with hydraulic hoist delivered the steel plate. A water truck was manoeuvred into position to provide a backing block for the portable hydraulic jacks. Sleepers were placed across the back wheels of the truck and across the back of the steel plate, with the jacks inbetween. The plate was then forced through the ground under the plot by the hydraulic jacks. Some difficulty was experienced when the palte encountered a tree root about 3ins. in diameter; but the jacks were finally equal to the situation. When the plate was right under the plot, the water truck was driven out and the hydraulic hoist truck manoeuvred into position. Wire ropes were attached to the four corners of the angle iron and the whole plot manoeuvred on to the tray of the truck by the hydraulic hoist.The truck transported the plot to the new site and lowered it into a recess already prepared in the ground. To remove the metal plate it was necessary to drive stakes into the two back corners of the boarded plot and hold the stakes by attaching them to nearby trees with wire ropes. Then the metal plate was easily withdrawn, leaving the plot of soil in position. The soil in the plot was not cracked or crumbled in any way, and remained quite firm and undisturbed. The boards were removed, the soil filled in around the plot and the whole well watered. Where the soil had been disturbed, an obvious scar was left. However this is very quickly regenerating. The operation was repeated with a second plot.

Within six weeks the greenhoods were flowerring, but unfortunately only in one plot. Later more plants came up that did not flower this year and now there are many leaves of these greenhoods in both plots. Besides the greenhoods there are leaves of helmet and Acianthus orchids. Because the disturbed ground attracted rabbits to the sites, bracken fronds were laid over the ground to afford some protection to the orchid flowers and leaves.

The new sites chosen appear similar to the original site and it is hoped that the orchids will continue to flourish.

Bon Thompson.

A VISIT TO McKILLOP'S BRIDGE contd..

Our longest hike was in a downstream direction along a track which angles up-hill from the bridge to Mt Sugarloaf and beyond. From the track there are many splendid views of the Snowy River and the bridge.

We had been advised to do this walk by a couple from another camp. They came over to our fire on the Fridaynight to let us see"our neighbours" and seemed very surprised to find we were three ladies. They told us that they have been coming to the bridge for 14 years and love it, though they find it too hot in summer when the river is low and the water warm.They mentioned that at times, baits of 1080 poison are laid for dingoes and rabbits. POssibly they explained is why we found the wildlife, except for birds and rabbits, so scarce. We had seen a few kangaroos as we drove down through Rocky Range Fauna Reserve. Marge saw one wallaby grooming itself by the Deddick River, and glimpsed a fox once. One red-bellied black snake was seen not far from our camp; a few millipedes about 5 cms. long, one small scorpion and an occasional butterfly made up the list of creatures other than birds. Except for the sound of water hurrying down the Deddick, the nights were soundless; not one frog, or nightbird, or even a possum was heard. Later Norma told us that the night silence had scared her, but she didn't show it at the time.

We identified 37 species of birds. To us, the most unusual were speckled warblers, brown tree-creepers, weebills, fuscous honeyeaters, a pair of hooded robins and a party of white-winged choughs. At least one of the last named was a young bird, being brownish coloured compared to the others and having brown eyes, instead of red. We saw it squat down on the edge of Deddick Trail, and beg.It was twice fed by an adult before the group moved down the steep slope towards the river.

There was more rain during Saturday night, and by morning it seemed to have really set in. Since Norma had to be back at work on Tuesday, we thought it best to move nearer home, in case the more remote roads became blocked.To make a round trip, we went to Bonang before turning homeward. South of Bonang the rain had obviously been heavier, and was still teeming down. At lunchtime we took shelter in an unoccupied, but clean building near Martins Creek. Over lunch we decided to spend the last night of our brief holiday here. The rain continued, and there was a noisy chorus by frogs, which made our shelter seem all the more cosy,

Rain was still pouring down next morning, and we had driven only a short way when we found a tree across the road. Road patrol trucks appeared very soon and cleared our way, so we lost little time. The water raging down creeks and the Brodribb River was really worth seeing. Orbost flats looked like a huge lake and BOggy Creek at NOwa Nowa was another swirling torrent reaching up to only about a metre below the bridge and roadway. Back at Lakes Entrance we learned that there had been 150 millimetres of rain while we were absent. Deddick, the nearest place to McKillops Bridge reported only 50 mms. So we felt quite sure we had chosen the best place for our short holiday. The dry area from Deddick to beyond Suggan Buggan is in a rain shadow.

contd...pp

A VISIT TO McKILLOPS BRIDGE. contd...

We had added olive whistler and eastern whip bird to our bird list at Amboynes Crossing, and rose robins at Martins Creek. Flame robins had been seen between Wulgulmerang and Little River on our first day; again at Amboynes Crossing, Bonang and Martins Creek later.

We hope to make more camping trips such as this one.

J.W.Johnstone.

BIRDS AT MOUNT ISA.

In June of last year we had our second stop over at Mt Isa, and were again delighted with the number and variety of birds in the district. MOunt Isa is set in a semi-arid area with an annual rainfall of about 400 mm. 75% of which falls in the 4 months from December to March. The topography is generally of low hills with the vegetation varying from lowarid woodland in which eucalypts dominate to shrub savannah with scattered shrubs and Triodia sp.(Spinifex).
The prescence of so many birds must be due in no small measure to the permanent water storages which have been constructed and which attract birds from beyond their usual range. Lake Moondarra about 20 km to the north of the City is the nearest of the large areas of water.

The Caravan park where we stayed is close to the bank of the Leichardt River which was dry at that time,except for a few pools here and there. At about 8.30 am on our second morning we were startled by an approaching noise rather like a low flying jet aeroplane and then a minute later a flock of about 200 Little Corellas screeched overhead. That afternoon on the northern outskirts of the City a black cloud of about 400 Black Kites soared and turned high in the sky.

On our first afternoon at Lake Moondarra a Pelican waddled up the bank towards us hoping to be fed. All we had were dry biscuits andthe birds reacted angrily to this meagre offering snappingits huge beak at us in a most menacing manner. The same afternoon further round the Lake we were treated by a Caspian Tern to an extraordinary feat of aerobatics. The bird was flying steadily along close to the edge and about 7 m above the surface when it stopped in mid air, turned and dived all in one swift motion to surface a little later and fly off with a fish about 20 cm long in its beak. Another afternoon we had an unforgettable sight of about 200 Little BLack Cormorants swimming on the surface of the lake in a closely packed convoy, diving in unison and then continuing to swim on in convoy. Presumably the flock was following a shoal of fish although there was no sign of any being caught. Three Pelican who joined the convoy became disinterested after a while and left.

One day we had our lunch among low trees and shrubs north from the Lake and had a close view of a Silver-crowned Friarbird feeding greedily on the 10 cm long and nectar laden flowers of a small Corkwood tree (Hakea divaricta), and characteristically keeping the other honeyeaters away.

contd...pp

BIRDS AT MOUNT ISA. contd...

A flash of green led us to a nearby tree and to a number of varied Lorikeet who look so grotesque with that large white naked eye -ring.

We had a day trip in our car to the East Leichardt Dam which is 40 Km east of the City. Here is a stretch of water considerably smaller than Lake Moondarra but with similar topography and vegetation and also with a large Bird population. We had seen some Great Crested Grebes at Lake Moondarra but here there were about 30 close by the bank near us and we had an excellent opportunity to observe at close quarters theirfantastic black crests and chestnut and black ruffs.
A very pleasant sight in a shallow part of the dam was Little Grebes and Black Ducks feeding among the leaves and flowers of that attractive acquatic palnt Nymphoides indica.

We did not see any of the large native birds while at Mt Isa but close by on our way there we saw a Jabiru in a pool in the bed of the Cloncurry River and another one near the roadside 20 km west of Cloncurry. We also saw 3 Australian Bustards 40 km west of Cloncurry.

We have identified a total of 72 different species of birds in the Mount Isa district but feel sure that there could well be twice that number.

Keith Black.

WILD ? LIFE AT WINGAN.

We arrived at Wingan Inlet to be greeted by shrieksof joy from the currawongs who turned on an aerial acrobatic display for our entertainment - and then stood around waiting for tha handout.
The sound of the axe brought in our friendly neighbourhood kookaburra who perched on the log and politely accepted a succulent grub from a small grimy hand. As we sat around the campfire that night, the house warming party arrived. First came three brush-tailed possums who helped us demolish several apples with gusto, then trotted at our heels like pet pups or climbed our knees to look for more. The next arrivals were a pair of longnosed bandicoots who adored a burnt sausage, then busily foraged for another edible goodie.A big owl flew in and sternly eyed our unseemly behaviour. Unfortunately our guests just did not know when it was polite to leave and had to be firmly refused admission to the tent. After a period of due consideration, by which time we were asleep, the jolly fellows decided we were just not used to the gay life, so they found their own way in and continued the revelry over our feet and happily feasted on apple cakes and violet crumble.

Next morning the cleaners arrived, a party of blue wrens and yellow robins, who left the surroundings as we found them.
Welcome to Wingan Inlet.

Mrs C.Scott.

TRARALGON SOUTH EXCURSION 29/9/79

Following an interesting and informative talk on orchids by Mrs thompson ,illustrated by a series of beautiful slides taken by Mr Thompson, 19 club members travelled to Traralgon South on 29th September to the reserve where most of the specimens were gathered. The weather was typical Gippsland Spring; humid and sunny with thundery showerspredicted. The morning session was fine and pleasant but by the time it was lunchtime the predicted showers had arrived.

We were met by Mr Ron Bassee, the S.E.C. Environmental Officer for the Loy Yang project, who spoke briefly of the work being done to beautify the area around the open cut and overburden dump. Mr Bassee supplied us with copies of a report on the work in progress, the species planted and their survival prospects in the location.

The first area of bush inspected will eventually be covered by overburden. Mr and Mrs Thompson pointed out that we were a few weeks early to see the best display of orchids. Never the less the following is a list of some of the plants observed.

ORCHIDS

Maroon Hood (Pterostylis pedunculata) Tall Greenhood (P.longifolia) Nodding Greenhood (P.nutans),Blunt Greenhood(P.curta), Slender Sun Orchid (Thelymitra pauciflora), Wax LIp (Glossodia major), Gnat Orchid (Acianthus exsertus), Spider Orchid(Caladenia patersonii), Helmet (Caleana unguiculatus).

OTHER PLANTS.

Sundew (Drosera auriculata), Golden Bush-pea (Pultenaea gunnii), Running Postman (Kennedia prostrata) , Sarsaparilla (Hardenbergia violacea), Red Correa (C.reflexa), Yellow Grevillea(G.chrysophaea), Rice Flower (Pimelea humilis),Fringe Lily (Thysanotus tuberosa), Twining Fringe Lily (T.patersonii), Wedding Bush (Ricinocarpus pinifolia), Blue Star (Chamaescilla corymbosa).

I hasten to point out that the botanical names are not of my knowledge but were gleaned from Miss Galbraith's excellent reference book "Wildflowers of South-east Australia".

For someone like myself who has been more interested in the upper storey of the bush both as an environment and a renewable timber resiurce, the large number of flowering plants to be seen at ground level comes as something of a surprise and adds greatly to the interest of the total bush environment.

After lunch in somewhat cooler and wetter conditions we inspected the transplanted orchid beds and saw a very interesting area of natural regeneration of abandoned pastureland. In this area was a fairly thick stand of Black Wattle, some Dogwood, and Blackwood and a number of eucalypt seedlings.

Mr Bassee then showed us some of the plantations which had been established along the boundary of the S.E.C.Project. 7,000 trees of various types have been planted with a projected total of 100,000.

contd...pp6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 25th 1979 .

Report on the future of the M.M.B.W.Township for the thomson Dam Project. This is available for comment.Submissions to be submitted to Town and Country Planning Board by October 31st 1979.

Details for October excursion finalised.

November Meeting alteration: Mr Wall will speak about the recent trip to Broken Hill etc with F.N.C.V.

Decided that the excursion will be in the evening for spotlighting.

Discussion re the January 1980 Campout. Further information when things are finalised. We must obtain permission to use huts etc.

Special meeting for programme will be held october 16th. at the home of Mr and Mrs Lubcke 122a Helen Street Morwell.
Mrs Thompson agreed to canvas members for ideas at the meeting.

Mr Wall advised that a Boat Trip had been arranged for next year.

Supper Roster October 26th, Mrs Scott Miss Galbraith

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday October 23rd at the home of Miss Jean Galbraith, Tyers at 7.30 pm.
Any interested members welcome at these meetings.

Mr Lester announced that he would be resigning as Treasurer. He is moving away from the area. Mrs Norma Smith agreed to take the position until the Annual Meeting.

TRARALGON SOUTH EXCURSION contd..

In an undertaking the size of Loy Yang with the enormous amount of modification to the countryside it is good to see so much attention being given to the establishment of plantations of native trees wherever possible. If this programme is persevered with, there should be some hope of ground plants being re-established and a return of bird and small animal life to the area.

It will be worthwhile to keep in touch with Mr Bassee for his further comments on the suitability and growth rates of the various species used in his work.

Colin J.Baillie.

It was with regret that we learned of the death of our member Mr Frank Branson.We were told at the excursion that he had died during the night. The previous evening we had all been thinking of him and expressed wishes for his recovery. OUr Secretary Mrs Peterson stayed away from the excursion in order to visit Mrs Branson, other members visited later in the day.

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BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523 792	

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday 16th November Movie Film of travels Mr and Mrs Tucker
EXCURSION:	Sunday 18th November Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:	Friday November 23rd. Slides and talk on trip to Broken Hill etc with F.N.C.V. Mr J.Wall.
EXCURSION:	Saturday November 24th for an evening of Spotlighting.
MEETING PLACE:	Gormandale Hall at 5.30 pm. Barbecue tea anticipated.
Christmas Break-up	Saturday December 15th at the property of Mr and Mrs Ringin Coalville.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING	Friday December 7th Barbecue evening. Contact Secretary for details.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

EXCURSION:	Sunday December 9th. Walkerville Crown Lands.
MEETING PLACE:	Corner Waratah/Sandy Point Rd. via Fish Creek at 10.00 am.

BOOK REVIEW.

ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE by Leslie Brown.
Published by Oxford University Press.

This book has 188 pages and Index, with a list of further reading pertaining to each of the thirteen chapters added. Price $21.00

Each chapter refers to the authors encounters with some form of nature, be it animals, birds or fishes.

In the chapter "Threads of Experience" the author demonstrates that we can all observe nature about us, however mundane we may think our observations might be. They will be of interest to someone.
So therefore we should record our little observations for future reference.
Mr Brown describes his own experience as a naturalist in Africa mainly but he has travelled the world in search of more"encounters".

The book was written to while away the hours during time spent in a Somalian Goal. This event was the result of a miscalcullation by the pilot in charge of the small aircraft in which Mr Brown and his two companions were travelling, and landing in hostile territory.
Mr Brown spent the time jotting down his experiences and"Encounters with Nature" for us all to enjoy.
The book is enhanced by delightful illustrative drawings by Doris Tischler. Drawings of beavers and otters are especially attractive but all will give pleasure to the reader.

BIRD NOTES.

On the eve of Easter this year , I collected feathers and one foot and leg of a Sooty Owl (at last) from Toorloo Arm highway bridge. Very sorry I wasn't there to get the bird when fresh. As it was I was really lucky that the leg and foot had been squeezed down a crack between boards of the bridge and so was undamaged. I was able to be certain the bird had been a Sooty Owl. I sent some feathers and notes to Graham Pizzey, who answered in his "Herald" "All around Us" column late in May. This time he agreed the bird had been a Sooty Owl.
(You'll remember I hoped I had seen one 3 years ago, alive, in Lilly pillies near Toorloo Arm. I wrote to Graham Pizzey after I had seen the bird, or one the same, a second time. He suggested that the description better fitted a masked owl; and with one more live and two dead (road killed) sightings I have to agree with him.)
One road killed was very dark, even more so than Slater's illustration in his Field Guide. The other was so light that I first thought it a barn owl.

Joy Johnstone.

extract from a letter sent to Miss Galbraith.

" ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY".

Mr Andy Ringin gave an interesting account, illustrated with excellent slides of a safari which travelled west from Alice Springs to the Hammersley Range in West Australia.The route for part of the way was along the Gunbarrel Highway, one of the network of roads constructed in the interior by Len Beadell's construction party at the time of the Woomera Rocket Range tests.

The trip commenced from Adelaide on 3rd June 1978. It was a wet winter and they travelled through rain from Adelaide to Port Augusta. Wet roads delayed them in Alice Springs and their vehicles were bogged many times before reaching drier country.

Mr Ringin spoke of the attraction for him of the interior, and quoted from Masefield's poem " The Vagabond "

"Dunno a heap about the what and why,
Can't say as I ever knowed,
Heaven to me is a fair blue stretch of sky,
Earth's just a dusty road,
Dunno the name of things,
Nor what they are" (Can't say I ever will!)

To Mr Ringin the earth of the interior is more than " just a dusty road", it is a place of dry aromatic scents of spinifex and other herby growth.

the party camped for a week at the "Green Leaves" caravan park in Alice Springs waiting for the roads to become passable. They made good use of their time travelling to places of interest around Alice Springs and photographing the scenery.

Andy's slides showed the dramatic outlines and colours of the McDonnel Range surrounding Alice Springs.

On the first day they visited Honeymoon Gap and Standley Chasm with walls 250 ft. high and at its narrowest 12-18 ft .wide, and saw the twin ghost gums, Euc papuana, favourite subjects of Albert Namatjira. They went to Simpson's Gap, to see the Rock Wallabies. They visited the date farm,the old telegraph station which was built at the site of the first settlement of Alice Springs on the Todd River. The old Telegraph Station is a Historic Site and is being restored as a museum.

There were slides showing some of the Billy Ricketts aboriginal figures at the Pitchi Ritchi Museum, and of an aboriginal painting at Emily Gap on a vertical rock face.

Another interesting day was spent on a trip by LandRover to the Hermannsberg Mission, which was founded by Lutheran Missionaries in 1877. After lunch in a shady spot in the bed of the Finke River below Hermannsberg, Andy and psrty went on to the Amphitheatre and Palm Valley. There were slides of rock pools in the Finke River, cliff faces of the amphitheatre showing the striking horizontal layering of the rocks, and Palms (Livistona mariae) of Palm Valley. The area is part of the Palm Valley Flora and Fauna Reserve..

contd....pp 3

ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY contd...

By 12th June the weather had cleared and the safari left for Ayers Rock and the Olgas. Slides showed the mesa topped Mt Connor 1500 ft. high, Ayers Rock, and the caves at its base.Ayers Rock is a felspathic outcrop 2 miles long and 1153 ft high. The explorer Gosse was the first white man to visit Ayers Rock, although it was first sighted by Giles during his explorations.

The party camped at the rounded west end of the Olgas for 2 nights with the huge domes looming black and immense against the night sky. they could hear dingos howling at night(they are protected as the area forms the Ayers Rock Mt Olga National Park). "Bazza", the cook was able to feed one dingo with scraps of cake.

The Olgas, 20 miles from Ayers Rock were discovered by the explorer Giles in 1872. He named them after the Queen of Spain at the time. They are 7 miles long and there are 38 domes of which the highest rises 1790 ft above the surrounding plains. The aboriginal name, KATANUTA, means mountain of many heads. Slides of the spectacular scenery of the Olgas followed, including views of the "Valley of the Winds", and a chasm which took 2½ hours to walk through.

Leaving the Olgas behind the party drove via the Gunbarrel Highway towards the Docker River Mission 124 miles weat, it is an aboriginal mission in the Petermann Range. The settlement is depressing, but the surrounding country is most attractive. There were Desert Oaks, Grass trees and Ghost Gums.

Although trave-ling through very wet country, with sheets of water on the ground, the creeks were dry, usually lined with Red Gums. The area is an aboriginal reserve, and one of the conditions of entry is that photography is not permitted.

Wildflowers in bloom after the rains included Pussy Tails(ptilotus atriplicifolius), the introduced Paddymelon , Grey groundsel(Senecio gregori), Poached-egg Daisy (Myriocarpus stuartii), and Swainsonia.

They saw the cave in the bank of the Hull River in the Petermann Range where the legendary Harold Bell Lasseter had rested and had been cared for by the aboriginal tribes before setting out on his last desperate bid to reach Ayers rock.

Mr Ringin showed slides of Emu Bush (Eremophila gilesii), Holly Grevillea (G.wickhamii), Pussy Tails, Desert Rose (Hibiscus heugeli) and Saltbush.

They passed the Giles WEather Station, Mr Ringin saw one of Len Beadell's aluminium plates attached to a blazed tree, on which he marked the latitude and longitude calculated from star observations. Road Junctions and important features were marked along all Len Beadells roads. The road surface(Gunbarrel Highway) was badly corrugated, hard on both travellers and vehicles. Travelling was slow , only 190 miles in two days, and mechanical trouble in the rear wheel of the bus was threatening.

They found a good campsite (Saturday 17th) in dry mulga country filling water tanks from a bore near Fanny Linton Bore, with an aboriginal encampment nearby.

contd.....pp 4

ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY contd...

As they approached Warburton Mission the country became increasingly arid. The ground was littered with heavy black stones indicating the prescence of iron ore, white quartz, and a greenish stone which was nickel ore.

AtWarburton Mission Mr Ringin renewed aquaintance with Miss thelma Roberts, a friend from Yallourn North. MissRoberts showed the visitors over the mission which was once the Australian Inland Mission but is now under the control of the Commonwealth Government.
Miss Roberts speaks the dialect of the local, WONGAI tribe fluently. There were slides of the mission and the people, and one of a young girl with her camels travelling across Australia.
There were Desert Grevillea, Corkwood Tree, and Sturts Desert Pea (Clianthus formosus). As the Gunbarrel Highway was impassable beyond Warburton, they turned south along another of Len Beadell's roads. They travelled 130 miles across part of the Great Victoria Desert, on their way to Leonora via Laverton. In spite of the recent rain the country was dry, but with good mulga and mallee cover, and always spinifex.

The next days drive of 500 km. took them 40 km past Leonora to a good campsite in the bed of Sullivan's Creek, dry, but with a wide sandy bottom lined with River Red Gums.

Mr Ringin said Leonora and its suburb Gwalia are typical old goldfield towns with a combined population of 500. In 1900 Leonora had a population of 10,000, 7 hotels and a steam tram out to Gwalia. Included among the slides of Leonora was one showing the old stampers, still standing, made from the local timber.

Continuing towards Wiluna and Meekatharra the road passed through increasingly dry country showing signs of mining activity, old mullock heaps of gold mining ,and recent heaps from Nickel prospecting.

Wiluna is almost a ghost town with a European population of 41, but was once a thriving town with a population of 12,000. There is a store and hotel and another large hotel which is used as a mining company's headquarters.

The back wheels of the coach had been making warning noises, and finally collapsed about 50 km out of Wiluna, so they camped 2 nights beside the Wiluna-Meekatharra road while spares were obtained and the wheels repaired. It was a good camping place in mulga, clear of spinifex, for the tents and dry mulga on the ground for campfires.

With the coach in good order they left for Meekatharra, where the road continues as bitumen!. Meekatharra is an interesting little gold mining town, with some good shops, including an old time general store. They travelled about 400 km for the day and again found a good bush campsite in a clear patch of the mulga.

This article by Charles Lester will be continued in a later issue.

" THE AMPLE HEAVEN"

The unthrifty sun shot with Gold,
A thousand pieces:
And heaven its azure did unfold
chequered with snowy fleeces;
The air was all in spice,
And every bush
A garland wore; Thus fed my eyes,
But all the earth lay hush.

Only a little fountain lent
Some use for ears,
And on the dumb shades language spent -
The music of her tears.

Henry Vaughan 1622- 1695.

Sent to us from Mr and Mrs Eve. Thankyou Ed.

EUPHORBIA PEPLUS

According to an article published in the Sun 24/10/79, a common garden weed, pretty spurge, can cure warts, sun spots etc.
It can also cause serious skin irritations and blistering.
Several years ago a friend accidently rubbed her eyes after handling this weed, and suffered a lot of pain even with the assistance from a doctor.

Therefore it is always advisable to wash our hands after handling this weed in the garden.

Euphorbia is the name given to an African species by Juba, King of Mauritania , in honour of his Greek physician, Euphorbus, who had discovered its medicinal uses.

Euphorbia peplus is illustrated in the "Weeds of Australia" book by C.Lamp and F.Collet.

H.Brooks.

SILVER EYES

Balanced diets must be unheard of in the Silver Eyes families as one day we watched the baby birds literally being stuffed with Lilly-pilly berries. I am sure the babies must have been quite tired of the diet as I didn't see any other food offered to them.

Bon Thompson.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 23rd 1979 .

Reported that the excursion set for October 13th was cancelled because of the extreme rain and wet generally .

Meeting held October 16th to set programme for 1980. Speakers being contacted so that the programme will be ready for distribution soon.

Advised that the booklet containing articles written by Keith Rogers is at the publishers and will be available shortly.

Mr Ken McDonald was re-elected to be the club representative on the committee of management of the Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve.

m Mrs Reeves reported that she had attended the Yarram Natural HIstory Exhibition and was very impressed with it. There were many school children visiting the show, and there were games and quizzes etc relating to nature for them. There was also much to interest the adult visitors.

Mrs Brooks has resigned as the club represemtative at the C.C.V.

Mrs Thompson (Conservation Co-ordinator) read a draft submission re the M.M.B.W.Township of Rawson, and its future after the Thomson Dam is completed. Suggested that it be used for study groups, school groups etc or be taken over by a service Club or several Clubs.

C.C.V have sent a letter asking that we all write to the Minister of Conservation as there is a section of the community in the North East of Victoria who are campaigning against any Alpine National Park. We do not wish the L.C.C.final report on the Alpine area to be altered in any way.

SupperRoster November 23rd, Mrs thompson Mrs Vincent.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday November 20th at the home of Mr and Mrs Thompson Downies Lane Traralgon South at 7.30 pm. All interested members welcome at these meetings.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP.

Mr and Mrs Ringin have kindly offeres their property "BUNDILLA" at Coalville for the afternoon. There is a large barbeque available, also there will be an urn with boiling water available all day. Bring your chairs and food and chiefly yourselves to this afternoon. There will be directional signs from the old Caolville township.

Full details of directions to the property were printed in the Naturalist November 1978. You might look them up.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

No Meeting in December
January
January 18th 1980 Members Night.

Latrobe Valley F.N.C.

Christmas get-together — Saturday December 15th at Coalville.
Follow signs to Mr Ringin's Property.

Campout — January 26,27,28. 1980.

Lankeys Plain (Dargo High Plains). Good Camping, water available
Hut available for shelter only, if others not already there.

Road good but not recommended for caravans beyond Dargo.

Boat Trip — Sunday February 24th to Refuge Cove.

Please give names to Mr Wall if interested as soon as possible.

We take this opportunity to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a Good Year in 1980.

REPORT OF TALK BY Mr MAX YARDEY 26/10/79

The Bird Atlas is a project sponsored by the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union, which aims to map both the present and past distributions of all australian birds. It is an extremely ambitious project as over 700 species of birds have been recorded in Australia. The vast area of Australia increases the difficulty of obtaining a complete coverage. The idea of having a Bird Atlas originated in the early 1970's and several pilot schemes were completed to find the best way of compiling the data. Eventually a method of using numbers for each bird species being recorded on a computer sheet was decided upon.

Biological Atlassing, from which the idea of a 'Bird Atlas' sprung, originated in Britain in the 1960's where a botanical atlas was completed Since then the distributions of many groups of plants and animals have been mapped by various 'Atlassers'. The Australian Bird Atlas differs from these in that it is also mapping past distributions. This is possible because of the comparatively recent settlement of Australia by European man.

To cover both the past and present, the Bird Atlas is divided into the Field Atlas and the Historical Atlas. In the Historical Atlas there are three time periods; pre 1900, 1901- 1950 and 1951-1976. They are divided like this as in 1901 the R.A.O.U.was formed, signalling the beginnings of organized ornithology in Australia. 1950 was chosen as it was about then that the large scale post war clearing began. In 1977 the field Atlas started a project which is planned to continue until 1981.

When completed the bird Atlas will allow changes in bird distributions to be studied as well as enabling the conservation value of areas to be better assessed. Because of the value of the work the project is funded by the Federal Government. This money is used to pay the operating costs of the scheme and for the salaries of 4 paid staff. These staff are supported on a state level by volunteer Regional Organisers who check all the record sheets before passing them on to headquarters. Sub-Regional Organisers such as MR Yardey and myself organise local areas.

The records for the Atlas are based on a grid of 1 degreeblocks which are covering Australia. There are approximately 700 of these 1 degree blocks each of which is divided further into 36 ten minute blocks Each species of bird has a number which is recorded onto the computer sheet. This does not allow the numbers of birds seen to be recorded but an idea of the bird populations in an area can be gained by the number of times it is recorded for that block.

Anyone is able to participate in the Atlas, the great majority of Atlassers being amateurs. All that is necessary is to be able to identify a few of the local birds and of course, only to record what has been positively identified. Many areas still need a more complete coverage, this being so particularly in the Historical Atlas and in breeding records for the Field Atlas.

contd...pp6.

ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY contd...

Travelling on to the Hammersley Ranges they passed through mulga and spinifex and noticed evidence of recent showers, pools of water and a slight greening of the countryside.
The Hammersley Ranges looked attractive as they travelled alongside them in the late afternoon sunlight. They entered the Dales Gorge National Park in the evening, travelling along a creek bed to the top of Dales Gorge to camp the night. This camp was the last base camp of the safari. Temperatures at night were cool, and can reach -4 deg. C. followed by warm and sunny days.

Mr Ringin walked to the Fortesque Falls and another small falls above them. In the afternoon he walked down Dales gorge to the circular pool, now no longer circular due to cyclone damage.

A series of fine slides showed some of thevertical walls of the gorges horizontally banded in rock layers of red, brown, blue and mauve. Other slides showed the dissected spinifex covered plateau above the gorges, pools deep down below, with greenery from Ghost Gums, Melaleucas, and fern growth, and reflections in the pools.

The safari visited Kalamina Gorge, not as big as Dales Gorge, but The scenery is as good, and the walking easier. In the gorges were Holly Grevillea (G.wickhamii), Trigger Plants, Acacias, Paperbarks, Red Gums (E.camaldulensis), Snappy Gum(E.brevifolia), and Rough -leaved Bloodwood(E.setosa).

A day trip was spent visiting the more distant gorges and falls, Red Gorge, Hancocks Gorge, Knox Gorge and Weano Gorge. Mr Ringin spent some time walking in all these gorges, which run together at a junction known as the Gordon Oxer Lookout.
On the way back to camp the party visited Voffre Falls at the head of Knox Gorge.
As there is water in the gorges, bird life is abundant. Mr Ringin noted Corellas, Grey and Pink Galahs, Pigeons, Rufous Whistlers, Brown Honeyeaters, Weebills, Crows and Port LIncoln Parrots. He saw camping places of Rock Wallabies, a small Grey and several large Red Kangaroos.

On another day out the Mt Tom Price mining complex was visited. Both the town and the mine are owned by Hammersley Iron. Mr Ringin was reminded of Yallourn, there are the same heavy equipment and workshops. Slides showed the well laid out town, views of the mine showed the benches and method of drilling. The company also own the railway from the mine to the coast, for shipment to Japan.

Mr Ringin said there were wonderful colours on the hills in the late afternoon sunlight on the way home. At night they held the usual concert round the campfire.
On the last day of the safari a visit was paid to Wittenoon and Yampire Gorges. The asbestos mines are closed down and Wittenoon is almost a ghost town with many empty buildings.

contd..pp 3.

ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY. contd...

Slides showed the beautiful gorge and old mine workings, the blue seams of alumina could easily be seen. They also visited the old mine workings in Yampire Gorge. As is the case with all gorges, the scenery is magnificent.

Saturday 1st July was departure date. Safari members were driven' via Mt Tom Price to Paraburdoo Airport, from where Andy boarded the plane to Perth, and on to Tullamarine.

The last slides were of thecamp concert, and a beautiful time exposure of the pattern traced out by the stars of the Southern Cross, taken in the clear night sky of the interior.
Mr Ringin concluded by quoting June Lubcke's verse:-

Sure, I've climbed on ayers Rock,
Seen the Olgas and "Alice"
Traversed creek beds and watched campfires burn,
But the Grey Gums are tall
In the valleys of Gippsland,
And I know that I long to return.

Mr O.Thompson, acting chairman, thanked Mr Ringin for sharing some of his experiences with us, and for his beautiful slides.

Charles Lester.

LAKES ENTRANCE SANCTUARY.

One September we visited Jack and Joy Johnstone and enjoyed a stay in their flats.

At the bottom of the garden they have a bird table. Many birds visit the table during the year, including Whip birds and Scrub Wrens.

Beneath the table Joy puts out bread for the little potoroos which come to feed. We were fascinated by them. As with most animals they each had their own personality - one being the senior in the social scale, another rather timid and yet another so shy or nervous of the others that it just raced across the space grabbing some bread as it went. Perhaps he was right at the bottom of the social ladder.

Don Thompson.

CORRECTIONS

there were some errors in the report " ALONG THE GUNBARREL HIGHWAY" Page 3 Issue No 191 Par.3 The aboriginal name for the Olgas should be Katajuta.
Last Par. page 3 . The campsite was at Mt Fanny near Linton bore.
and on this page ,par 1 alumina should be asbestos.

Apologies for being so remiss. Ed.

BIRD OBSERVING TO BROKEN HILL.

The six members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club who joined the Victorian F.N.C. on a tour to Broken Hill(late August-early September 1979) returned home with a list of 108 species of birds identified during the trip.

Nearly half of this number were seen on the first day from Melbourne to Mildura, and many such as Willy Wagtails and Magpies were seen throughout the tour. Most of those seen on the first day were common to Gippsland, but we enjoyed the novelty of Musk Ducks at Lake Wendouree at Ballarat, also a swift glimpse of Blue-billed Ducks on a large waterhole along the way. Black backed Magpies and Crested Pigeons became common sights.

The lunch spot on the roadside somewhere St Arnaud produced a tiny bird with a surprisingly penetrating voice that kept insisting that it was "Wee Willie Weetie". It proved to be a Weebill, and we were happy to maintain its company for most of the tour.
A Yellow-rumped Pardalote - very similar to the Spotted Pardalote was noticed entering a nesting tunnel which went into perfectly level ground. (It is thought that the lack of sloping banks in the Mallee habitar of this species is the reason why it digs a sloping burrow into the level ground.)

The following day we joined members of the Sunraysia Natural History Trust and other visiting naturalists on an excursion to Trentham Cliffs Station near Mildura. Despite the large number of people, birds were plentiful. We heard the "pan-pan panella" call of the Crested Bellbird many times but as far as I know, only one lucky lady obtained a view of this elusive bird. However we had no cause to complain for we sawa number of species not common to Gippsland - White-browed Treecreeper, Black-backed Wren, Little Friarbird, Purple-backed Wren, White-browed Babbler, Red-capped Robin, Eastern Whiteface, Brown Songlark, Black-capped Sitella and Yellow-plumed, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.

From Mildura to Broken Hill we began to see one of the most common species of the tour - the Fork-tailed Kite, and near Popilta Lake Reserve among the Casuarinas and Murray Pines, we had the pleasure of meeting our first Apostle Bird.

On the morning of our tour over Broken Hill Pty Ltd Mine we visited Imperial Lake where there were lots of water birds, including Pied Stilts and Seagulls. A pair of Whistling Kites landed just across the lake, one on a short dead tree and one on the lake.

The next day was taken up with a visit to the historic ghost town of Silverton where we browsed through the old jail, now a museum. During a walkabout after lunch, which was enjoyed enroute at the Umberumberka Reservoir, several families of White-winged Wrens were discovered much to our delight. We also saw three different"rumps" in this area -Red-rumped Parrots, White-rumped Miners (Yellow throated) and a Red-backed Kingfisher.(Many other species too of course, such as Mallee -ringnecked and Mulga Parrots and Little Corellas).

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BIRD OBSERVING TO BROKEN HILL. contd...

Triple Chance Mine on the following day also provided a few exciting extras such as Apostle Birds attending a nest, an Emu with chicks, Black-faced Woodswallows, Banded Plovers and a WEdgebill.
(Wedgebills are not to be confused with Weebills! My " Wee Willie Weetie" the smallest bird in Australia - is one of the Thornbill clan and flits happily about all day searching for insects, mainly in the outer foliage of eucalypts and usually well above the ground.
The WEdgebill on the other hand is related to the Whipbird, inhabits arid scrubland, and usually seeks low shrubs.)

Our day at Kinchega National Park brings at least three things to recall - the host of water birds at Lake Menindee, the " haven't seen you for over a week " pleasure of discovering a Cranky Fan frolicking among the stately RiverREd Gums on the banks of the DArling, and the beautifuly marked bark of the aptly named Leopard Tree (Flindersia maculosa) seen on the way back home. We were told that this tree has the unusual habit of growing in a sheath of prickles. When the young tree is large enough to be safe from the sheep etc. the protective prickles are shed.

The following day we visited Stephens Creek Reservoir where again there were lots of water birds including Musk and White-eyed Ducks as well as another "first" for some of us - a Spotted Crake.

Then came one of the highlights of the tour - a visit to the hauntingly beautiful Mootwingee Ranges. We lunched at the Wildlife and Flora Reserve and afterwards joined the group guided by Mr Baker of the BArrier Club on a walk through rocky hills to the Snake Cave.
Rufous Whistlers and a Grey Butcherbird carolled as we followed the trail along a creek. A White-necked Heron, clean cut and handsome in black and white, stood motionless on the pebbled edge of a rock pool; beside the Heron an overhanging eucalypt formed a veil of silvery green while behind towered a crevassed curtain of rock-face in shades of red and russet and charcoal grey. The Heron and all this surroundingl lovlines mirrored in the limpid waters of the pool. On the way home we saw our first Budgerigars settling into the mulga like green leaves falling in the now fading daylight. Lovely Mootwingee!

The remaining days of our tour passed all too quickly.
It was with regret and expressions of real gratitude that we parted from members of the Barrier Club who had so hospitably acted as our guides while we were in Broken Hill.

June Lubcke.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 20th 1979 .

Publications received. SGAP Newsletter, Victorian Naturalist.

Announcement re the publication of book PUMPKINS,POISONS& PEOPLE.
This is a book for people wishing to know something about pesticides, The Problems, Alternatives and Solutions.
Book is obtainable from C.C.V. 324 William Street Melbourne 3000 ata cost of $3.00.
RedCross Calling. A form requesting helpers for the March Appeal was tabled. Decided that any members wishing to help should get in touch with the Town Clerk, City of Moe.

F.N.C.V.Centenary Year. Advised that there will be a camp for 1 week atWilsons Promontory from 1st -8th November 1980.
If you wish to be included in this week please contact Secretary or Miss M.Allender (FNCV Melbourne).
Decided that we will have a special excursion on Sunday November 2nd to Wilsons Promontory. More details later on.

January Meeting to be held 1 week earlier due to campout.
Meeting will be a "Members Night" Selections of slides from members.

January campout to Lankeys Plain. Advised that there is good camping, water available, hut available (for shelter only).
Road good but not suitable for caravans beyond Dargo.
There will be a full day excursion to Mt Hotham on Sunday January 27th.

Mr Wall advised that he had booked a boat for trip to Refuge Cove or alternative if weather unsuitable, on Sunday February 24th.
As the boat holds only 40 people it is advisable to make a firm booking as soon as possible. Cost $4.00 for 40 people.

Programme is finalised and in the hands of the printers.

BIRD ATLAS

contd..pp1

Since the Atlas started many extensions of range by birds have been and are continuing to bemapped. For instance a Crimson Chat ,a bird of inland saltbush plains was recently seen near Lakes Entrance hundreds of miles outside its normal range.
The Lyrebird was previously thought not to range west of Melbourne, but has been seen recently from the Otway Ranges. Even more exciting is the re-discovery of the Night Parrot a few months ago in South Australia.

To conclude his talk Mr Yardey appealed to anyone who is interested in birds and is willing to contribute to this very worthwhile scheme to become an "Atlasser".

Barry Traill.

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

CLUB:	HON SECRETARY:	MEETINGS:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.	Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129	7.30 pm on 4th Friday of each month, at Regional Education Building, Kirk Street. MOE
SALE F.N.C.	Mrs J.Gooch Fulham R.S.D. SALE 3850 'phone 443441	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE.
TRARALGON F.N.C.	Mr J.Stott 48 Gilmour Street TRARALGON 3844	8.00 pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Educational Service Building, Traralgon. (Kosciusko St School)
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr J.Brooks 3 Nobel street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563	8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mr E.V.Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523 792	

SUBSCRIPTIONS
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Mr C.Lester
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YALLOURN 3838

Naturalist $4.50 Family $5.50 Single member $5.00

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Hon Editor Mrs L.Padfield,
99 Chamberlain Road
NEWBOROUGH 3825.